Policemen and Firemen - 1935

California.

FAMED NEGRO DETECTIVE IS TEXAS VISITOR

Lt. McDuff Of Los Angeles, Solves Legacy Case

By MADISON THOMAS

HOUSTON.—Visitors of note seem to be paying much attention to this city the last few weeks, what with the arrivals of Judge E. W. Henry, Philadelphia magistrate, and Mme. Evanti, famous singer. This week, one of the famous police officers of Los Angeles, spent a few days here in the person of Detective-Lieutenant Littleton McDuff, retired, of Los Angeles.

Lt. McDuff, who retired from the Los Angeles police department in April of 1931, in addition to a limited private investigation business, is Grand Traveling Deputy of the Elks ,and Monday was enroute to New Orleans to confer with Finley Wilson, national head of that organization.

Studied Abroad

Lt. McDuff, who, while a slouth studied police methods at Scotland Yard, in England, in Paris, Germany and Spain, was a veteran member of the Los Angeles force when he retired, but no one would guess his age as over 35.

Tall, trimly, but powerfully built, Lt. McDuff was considered one of the best dressed men on the police force ,and was easily one of its most popular members. At the time of his retirement he was Senior Detective-Lieutenant of the detective division. This was quite a distinction as there were 185 men of his rank, all white, of whom he was senior officer.

LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPT. HAS FOUR RACE CAPTAINS; RECORDS IMPRESS

Angel City Flame Fighters Have Rendered Brave and Courageous Services to City For Over Thirty Years.

LOS ANGELES, Calif., Mar. 28—Realizing the intricate bravery of the Negro firemen in Los Angeles, a story follows of their scope of work that is so efficiently operated.

For more than 35 years Los Angeles has employed Negro firemen. Moving in 1924 from Temple and Belmont streets, where they had been for a number of years, they are at present located in a two-story brick engine house at 14th and Central avenue, in the heart of the commercial district. There are two companies of men, commanded by four officers, namely: Captains Jack L. Taylor, H. A. Young, L. E. Washington and A. H. Kyle..

The station's equipment and apparatus in every detail compares with other fire companies in the city, and the cleanliness as well as character of the men, and beauty of the building, and appearance in general can be pointed to with pride.

Negroes have served efficiently in the promotional ranks as engineers and auto firemen and although there are no engineers in the fire station at present, one of the auto-firemen is a civil service eligible for the position of engineer.

Six Negroes nave been appointed in the department to fill vacancies created by retirement, disability etc. About five years ago an attempt was made by interested firemen to secure another engine house which would have given employmentto at least 16 more men, and opened the way for possibilities of two more captains, engineers and auto-firemen. The attempt failed because of the attitude of some of the so-called leaders of the race, who claimed that the applicants were attempting to segregate themselves and establish a precedent for such action, little realizing that the precedent had already been established. Consequently through sad eyes, the city saw a demonstration of prejudice being carried too far. Thus the authorities were able to say, "You people don't know what you want, and when you do, come back, and we will talk it over."

At present there are 30 Negroes actively employed with two vacancies to be filled. The company under the direction of Captain Jack L. Taylor are: J. C. Powell, O. W. Bomer, W. R. Brown, J. L. Long, P. J. McCarty, F. Milton and H. C. Gree. Captain H. A. Young's company is composed of A. W. Woodyard, E. Freeman, B. T. Hooks, L. W. Hurd, C. L. McDaniel, T. R. Webb, F. M. White. Captain L. E. Washington commands P. B. Anderson, G. S. Bailey, W. H. Byrd, L. Jordon, J. W. Prayer, G. Smith. Captain A. H. Kyle commands C. R. Author, C. M. Dean, R. F. Floyd, V. Harden, C. L. Shipp and P. E. Welch.

Policemen and Firemen-1935

D.C.

Ace of D. C. Detective Force Noted for Getting His Man

Paul W. Jones Feared by Flimflam Artists and Confidence Men

Pulling rabbits out of hats by magicians, is no more mysterious than how some people are induced to place their bank accounts, cash, jewelry and other articles of value, in the hands of strangers, only to see them disappear again by magic. The sentencing of two confidence men during the past week, to terms in prison, recalls the efficient work of Paul Jones, Washington's efficient detective sergeant, in rounding up men and women engaged in fleecing innocent victims.

At a recent banquet given in honor of the police and firemen of the District, Jones was introduced as their "Ace" detective. He is not, however, a G-Man, so-called, but his comrades in the District detective force count him a G-ood man to put on the trail of all flimflam artists and confidence men.

About a year ago when Leo Rover, the United States District Attorney left that office, he wrote a highly commendatory letter to police officials as to the high quality of Jones' work in connection with the conviction of numerous notorious criminals.

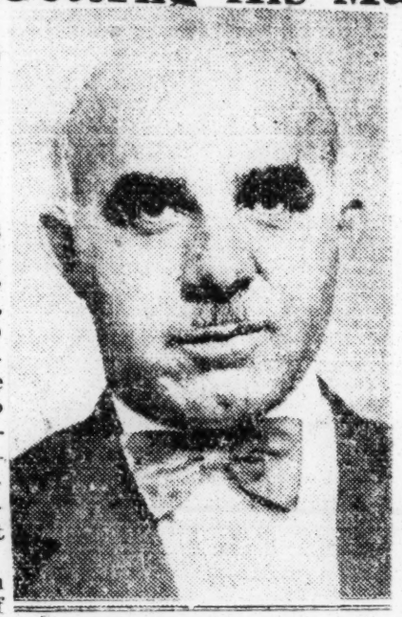
Jones was [illegible] highly commended for "meritorious service

pecting one Tene Bimbo, a 60-year-old Gypsy, he camped on his nomadic trail, in season and out of season until he rounded up his man and landed him in prison.

Bimbo, allegedly one of the most adroit "short change artists" in the country, was charged with having fleeced bank tellers in many cities during the past two years.

The other mystery, in striking contrast to the Gypsy hunt, was short lived and was solved by Jones in less than 48 hours. He "picked up" his man, one "Gus Gaynes" in Newark, New Jersey, with all the loot on his person.

Jones, who is married and lives at 1029 Lamont Street, Northwest, has been a member of the District police force for more than a quarter of a century. He was appointed a patrolman and assigned to the Eighth Precinct, January 11, 1907. He was promoted to Private of Class Two, January 11, 1910 and to Private Class Three, January 11, 1915.



PAUL W. JONES

He resigned from the force October 15, 1917, but was reappointed as Private of Class Three, March 11, 1919. October 26, 1921, he was transferred to the Detective Bureau and appointed Precinct Detective and promoted to Detective Sergeant February 6, 1923. Both as a patrolman and a detective he has been several times commended for "exceptional police duty," the "high quality of his work" and for "courageous action in line of duty."

He is credited with knowing by sight and being conversant with the record of nearly every confidence man who has ever worked "his racket" in Washington or any of the principal cities of the East.

[illegible]rice;" and his work cited to his fellow sleuths as most worthy of emulation... Jones was commended by his superiors for having got his man" in two very baffling mysteries. One of these mysteries he solved only after a long drawn-out chase of nearly two years. Su[illegible]

Policemen and Firemen - 1935

Indiana

APPOINTED TO POLICE FORCE IN SOUTH BEND

Indianapolis
Indiana
Recorder

SOUTH BEND, Ind.—(Special)—Albert Pope, 33, 518 South Scott street, was appointed to the South Bend police deparment Monday by the board of safety.

Mr. Pope is six feet two inches tall and weighs 245 pounds. He is married, has two children and has lived in South Bend for the past 17 years. For the past seven years he has been employed by the Swank Dry Cleaning company, 1101 King street.

He takes the place made vacant by Rex Risher, white, whose resignation was accepted by the board at the same meeting. Mr. Risher accepted an appointment as captain of the excise division of the Indiana state police, effective Monday.

The city patrol boat used to effect rescues from drowning and in the recovery of bodies, was transferred from the jurisdiction of the fire department to the police by action of the board.

SOUTH BEND, IND.
NEWS TIMES

JUL 1 1935

APPOINT NEGRO TO CITY POLICE

Board Of Safety Names Albert Pope To Force.

Albert Pope, 33, Negro, 518 South Scott street, was appointed to the South Bend police department Monday by the board of safety.

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City Firemen Hang Up World's Record

Recorder

Indianapolis colored firemen all of whom are stationed at Fire Station No. 1, are the fastest in the world. They proved it Thursday in a hose laying test conducted by representatives of the National Board of Underwriters, New York. 11-9-35

In breaking the national and world's record, the firemen, commanded by Lieut. Roy Howard, moved their truck from standstill a distance of eight feet, connected hose to a fire plug after carrying it 250 feet and had water gushing out its nozzle in 14 seconds, beating the former world's record by one second.

The tests were conducted by Col. DeRhoe, New York City engineer. Members of the team included: Capt. Rezil Williams, absent because of illness; Fred Morten, Fleming Lindsey, chauffeurs; Harry Hawkins, Jean Burnett, William Murphy, Clifford Woods, Harold Morgan, Tony Boyd, William Swaim, Humphrey Williams.

The firemen of No. 1. Station were selected by Chief Kennedy to represent the entire city in the national contest.

Negro Firemen Break World Record in Test

11-13-35

INDIANAPOLIS. — (ANS)—Negro firemen, all of whom are stationed at Fire Station No. 1 here, proved Thursday, November 2, that they are the fastest in the world in a hose laying test conducted by representatives of the National Board of Underwriters, New York.

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Policemen and Firemen—1935

Illinois.

Mrs. Rachel Bright Gets Appointment

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Ill.
9-7-35

Mrs. Rachel Bright of 4400 Cottage Grove avenue, Democratic committeewoman of the Third Ward last week was appointed a police woman by Mayor Edward J. Kelly, on recommendation of Edward M. Sneed, Third Ward committeeman. She was assigned for duties at the 48th street police station.

Mrs. Bright has served the Democratic party for many years without remuneration and not only has she been a vital part of the Third Ward organization, but she has been interested in party politics throughout the city.

She was the first woman of color to be appointed ward committeewoman in Chicago. Mrs. Bright is a member of the Illinois Democratic Women's club and serves as one of the members of the board of that organization.

Chicagoan Is Appointed As Policewoman

Courier
9-7-35
Pittsburgh, Pa.

CHICAGO, Sept. 5—Mrs. Inez Champion, active political worker for many years, was appointed a policewoman, last week through the influence of Mayor Edward J. Kelly and Committeeman Joseph Geary of the Fourth Ward. Mrs. Champion, a Democrat, has been a matron in the County jail for several years. In her new work, she will be paired up with Mrs. Mauvelyene Carpenter.

Policemen and Firemen—1935

Kansas.

Ace Police Takes His Own Life

Star and Times
3-22-36

A razor slash on the arm of Pres Younger proved fatal Wednesday night at the St. Margaret's hospital. Younger, a veteran policeman, inflicted the fatal wound following a two month period of illness which apparently resulted from low spirit and doubt as to his possibilities for recovery.

The spirit that once "kept" the peace" in the remote alleys and darker corners of this city alone and unaided, failed before his illness and his desire not to be a "bother to anyone" was uppermost. He slashed his wrists with a razor Wednesday.

The officer was the oldest in point of service and in years of the Negro patrolmen of the department. He was appointed to the force first in the early '90s for a short term. Then the Spanish-American War intervened and Younger enlisted. After his return from the war, "Pres," as he was known to members of the police department, was reappointed a patrolman and again began walking a beat.

The Negroes in the West Bottoms and in the Negro district soon became aware of Younger's "bulldog" tendencies. When he went after a man, he intended to get him. Razor fighters left their mark on Younger's face and body, but he never quit until he had his opponent whipped and in jail to repent his sins.

Once or twice Younger was compelled to shoot to protect himself, but he always preferred to "take his prisoner." Fists usually were sufficient for "Pres."

July 14, 1921, Younger was assigned to duty as a welfare officer with the city welfare department. There he continued his usual methods of minding his own business and sticking strictly to the orders given him by higher officers. His name was legendary in the Negro districts. People went to him with their troubles with the assurance that Younger would do all in his power to aid them. He continued in the capacity of city welfare officer until several months ago when rheumatism compelled him to remain at his home, 545 Freeman avenue.

Star and Times
6-13-35

Patrolman

Frank McDaniels was appointed patrolman working out of police headquarters, Kansas City, May 15. Following the death of William Finley, who was killed last year in a gun battle with hoodlums, Officer McDaniels was made precinct captain in the fourth ward.

Policemen and Firemen - 1935

Massachusetts.

KENNEY MADE CONSTABLE

Elevated

Has Been Active in South End for Democratic Party

5-11-35

The appointment as constable of David D. Kenney, president of the Mass. Colored Men's Democratic Club, by the Mayor, was confirmed by the City Council last Monday at Boston City Hall.

Mr. Kenney was given a temporary job, as clerk, in the Assessors Dept. January of this year. The latest appointment is permanent at a salary of $1600.

Early in his administration Mayor Mansfield gave assurance to the officers of the Mass. Colored Men's Democratic Club that he would give due recognition to the members of this Club. In appointing Mr. Kenney, the Mayor said that he wished he could do more. Since assuming office, Mayor Mansfield has, perhaps, had to overcome greater difficulties than any other Mayor of Boston.

Mr. Kenney has been President of the Club since it was organized two years ago, and has built up the largest political organization of men of our group, irrespective of party, in the memory of the oldest politicians in Boston.

Policemen and Firemen—1935

Minnesota.

Miss Helen Waters Named Minneapolis Policewoman

Eagle
3-22-35

MINNEAPOLIS.—Miss Helen Waters, social worker, was appointed policewoman here by Mayor Bainbridge Wednesday, March 13. The civil service commission waived examination and certified her for appointment.

Miss Waters was associated with the Phyllis Wheatley settlement house before she was named to her new position. She was a court reporter in Chicago before coming here. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Waters of Anoka, Minn.

Miss Waters succeeds Mrs. Ethel Williams, who resigned some time ago because of ill health.

Miss Waters is the sister of Mrs. Dorothy Waters Wilson, R. N., 2312 Montgall avenue, former school nurse here prior to her marriage to Dr. William Wilson.

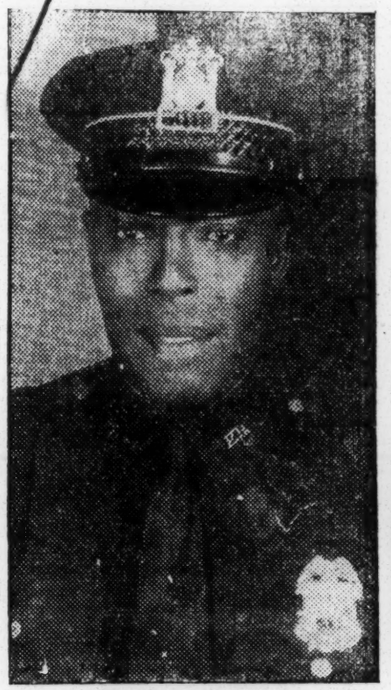
For two years Miss Waters has been the only Negro stenographer in the house of representatives at the state capital in Minneapolis. She is expected in Kansas City for a visit before taking up her new duties.

Kansas City Star

Missouri.

Policemen and Firemen-1935

GUARDS SCHOOL KIDS



CARLOS SMITH

SAMUEL ROYSTON

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—Safety of school children compelled to cross busy streets is the chief concern of these members of Kansas City's school patrol. These officers have been highly commended for the efficiency of their vigilance in watching over their wards. Parents of children attending these schools these officers guard, retain a disarming confidence throughout that their young will not join the growing list of casualties among youthful pedestrians.

Policemen and Firemen – 1935

New Jersey

Atlantic City's Finest

N.Y. Amsterdam News

RADIO PATROLMEN James Jones and James Diamond Elbart operators of Atlantic City's Radio Car No. 1, both have enviable records in the seashore city's police department. Jones, one of the youngest men in the service, is the son of Ernest (Big Boy) Jones, who was an officer for sixteen years. Elbart, fifteen years in the service, carries thirty-two bullet wounds in his body, twenty-seven received in the World War and five from "bad men" in Atlantic City. Jones has been on the force ten years.

Alert to Duty

Patrolman Faison

The alertness of Patrolman James Faison, Orange police officer, brought about the arrest of a robbery suspect right in the backyard of police headquarters Monday. About to go on duty, Faison looked out a window and spied a man dashing down the City Hall driveway. He gave chase and overhauled him. Ten minutes later the man, described as Frank Smith, 120 Broad street, Newark, was identified by Sam Lung, Chinese laundryman of 18 North Day street, as the robber who had held him up.

Policemen and Firemen—1935

New York.

New York Herald-Tribune

MAY 10 1935

1st Negro Gets Medal of Honor Of Police Force

Highest Award for Bravery Goes to Detective Roberts, Shot Slaying Extortioner

8 Honored Posthumously

Budd Kidnaping Solver One of 29 at Head of List

Twenty-nine members of the Police Department were honored yesterday by Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine, who announced the annual list of awards for conspicuous bravery. Eight of the awards were made posthumously.

The Department Medal of Honor, highest honor in the Police Department, has been awarded to Detective John E. Roberts, of the West 123d Street station, first Negro in the history of the police force to win the medal. Detective Roberts shot and killed one of three extortioners and was himself seriously wounded last November 6 in an apartment house raid on East 117th Street. He is still convalescing in his home at 409 Edgecombe Avenue. Two bullets entered his abdomen and one is still lodged in his right thigh.

Detective Roberts was a patrolman until June 4, 1934, when he wrote a letter to former Police Commissioner John F. O'Ryan asking for a personal interview. He told Mr. O'Ryan he felt sure he could convince him he was capable of detective work.

Sold Self in Ten Minutes

Immediately after the interview, Commissioner O'Ryan announced that Roberts would be taken on the detective force at once. He said Roberts had sold himself in less than ten minutes.

Five months later Detective Roberts was called to an apartment at 525 East 117th Street, where he engaged in a gun battle with Frank Carabella, a twenty-six-year-old extortion suspect. He killed Carabella, but was himself seriously wounded. He has been honored by the department once before.

Detective Roberts, who came to New York in 1909 from Portsmouth, Va., where he was born thirty-eight years ago, joined the police force in 1925 as a patrolman. He never attended school as a boy, and has educated himself since joining the department. He was assigned as a patrolman to the 135th Street station until 1927, and then served at the West 123d Street station until he was promoted to the automobile squad as a detective in June, 1934. He has been married for three years to Ollie Roberts. He is at present at his home, under a doctor's care, suffering from a stomach weakness resulting from the wounds of November 6, 1934.

The Medal of Honor and all other awards made public yesterday will be presented next month in ceremonies at City Hall or in Central Park. Mayor F. H. LaGuardia and Commissioner Valentine will be present.

King Solved Budd Slaying

Detective William F. King, of Headquarters, winner of the Rhinelander Medal, solved the kidnaping and slaying of Grace Budd with the arrest of Albert Howard Fish on December 13, 1934. His work occupied more than six years. Fish now awaits the electric chair.

Patrolman Edward P. Little, of Creedmore, Queens, is the only member of the department twice honored in the list. He is named for the Police Combat Cross, an honor instituted by former Commissioner O'Ryan, and for honorable mention.

The men honored, the medals they are to receive and the circumstances of the exceptional bravery are:

Department Medals of Honor (Posthumous)

McCARRON, PATROLMAN ERNEST F., Shield No. 14736, 68th Precinct. At about 4 a. m. January 7, 1934, on patrol duty, entered a burning dwelling at 6015 Fifth Avenue, Brooklyn, in an endeavor to rescue a child on the third floor. Patrolman McCarron was overcome and burned to death.

CLARIUS, PATROLMAN PHILLIP L., Shield No. 4323, 78th Precinct. At about 12:30 p. m. March 5, 1934, on duty at school crossing, accosted a holdup man, armed with a revolver, escaping from a store at 209 Hoyt Street, Brooklyn. The bandit fatally wounded Patrolman Clarius, who died March 15, 1934.

GARVEY, DETECTIVE JAMES J., Shield No. 29, 18th Division, 20th Squad. At about 10:25 p. m. April 21, 1934, on patrol duty with another detective, followed two suspicious men and accosted them on Seventy-fifth Street, near Broadway, Manhattan. Immediately both thugs discharged revolvers, killing Detective Garvey and seriously wounding the other detective.

WARD, PATROLMAN LAWRENCE A., Shield No. 11782, 23d Precinct. At about 3 a. m. May 4, 1934, on patrol duty with another patrolman, accosted three suspicious men in front of premises 322 East 101st Street, Manhattan. He followed two of them into the premises, where he was shot by one of the thugs and died May 6, 1934, as the result of the injuries sustained. The other patrolman, who engaged in an exchange of shots with the thugs, was shot and seriously wounded.

RASMUSSEN, PATROLMAN ARTHUR P., Shield No. 13779, 3d Precinct. At about 4:20 p. m., May 4, 1934, on patrol duty, encountered three holdup men escaping from a store at 83 Oliver Street, Manhattan. He immediately engaged in an exchange of shots, and was shot three times and killed. The perpetrators were subsequently arrested.

MORRISSEY, PATROLMAN JOHN J., Shield No. 13398, Telegraph Bureau. At about 11 a. m., May 14, 1934, while ascending the stairway between the third and fourth floors in Police Headquarters, Manhattan, attempted to prevent the escape of a demented man. He was thrown to the landing and sustained injuries from which he died on May 15, 1934.

FRASER, PATROLMAN JOHN J., Shield No. 15465, 4th Division. At about 10 p. m., September 26, 1934, while off duty in civilian clothes, followed three suspicious men into a store at 1161 Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, and accosted them as they were attempting to perpetrate a holdup. He was shot, and although seriously wounded, held two of the bandits at bay until another patrolman took them into custody. Patrolman Fraser died September 28, 1934, as the result of the injuries sustained.

MONAHAN, PATROLMAN JOHN P., Shield No. 13670, 14th Division. At about 10 p. m., November 26, 1934, entered an apartment at 48 Garden Street, Brooklyn, to investigate a complaint. While interrogating one of the occupants, he was shot and fatally wounded, and died on December 3, 1934. The murderer was subsequently arrested.

Department Medals of Honor

ROBERTS, DETECTIVE JOHN E., Shield No. 930, 18th Division, 28th Squad. At about 5:10 p. m., November 6, 1934, on radio patrol duty, proceeded to an apartment house at 525 East 117th Street, Manhattan, where three men were attempting to extort money from another man, and threatening him with bodily harm. Upon entering the apartment where the thugs were located, Detective Roberts engaged in an exchange of shots with them. He was shot three times, sustaining serious injuries, and has been on continuous sick report. He shot and killed one of the thugs and the other two were apprehended by a patrolman when they attempted to escape from the scene.

Police Combat Cross

RAMOS, DETECTIVE ARISTIDES, Shield No. 464, 18th Division, Main Office. At about 7 a. m., June 26, 1934, accompanied by another detective, entered an apartment house at 266 West Seventy-seventh Street, Manhattan, to apprehend a man who had shot two other men, killing one of them at 115th Street and Lenox Avenue, Manhattan, on July 15, 1931. Upon entering the apartment in which the man was secluded, he encountered two men, armed with pistols, and in an exchange of shots which ensued, one thug was killed and the other was disarmed and arrested

BAUER, DETECTIVE LAWRENCE R., Shield No. 805, 18th Division, Main Office (was Patrolman, Shield No. 12958, 15th Precinct, at time of occurrence). At about 2:50 p. m., September 29, 1934, off duty in civilian clothes, followed two suspicious men into a loft building at 39 East Thirtieth Street, Manhattan. He was struck on the head with the butt of a revolver by one of the criminals and thrown down the stairs, but shot both of them, and then, although injured, pursued one into the street where he shot and mortally wounded him. The other thug was disarmed and arrested by another patrolman.

MILLER, PATROLMAN FREDERICK L., Shield No. 12731, Traffic Precinct "K." At about 1:05 p. m., April 24, 1934, on traffic duty, pursued a man, armed with a revolver, who had held up and shot a storekeeper at 196 New Lots Avenue, Brooklyn. The chase led through several buildings and rear yards. Upon cornering the bandit in one of the yards, an exchange of shots ensued and he was disarmed and arrested.

BRENNAN, PATROLMAN WILLIAM F., Shield No. 38, 23d Precinct. At about 3 a. m., May 4, 1934, on patrol duty, accompanied by another patrolman, accosted three suspicious men in front of premises 322 East 101st Street, Manhattan. After the other patrolman had been shot and fatally wounded by two of the thugs, who had entered the building, Patrolman Brennan encountered them upon their return to the street, and in an exchange of shots with them, he sustained serious wounds which necessitated the amputation of his leg. He has been on continuous sick report. On January 9, 1935, both these thugs were arrested as vagrants on a subway station in Long Island City, and in an attempt to escape engaged in an exchange of shots with Patrolman Thomas Connor, Shield No. 109, 114th Precinct, and both were seriously wounded, one of them committing suicide and the other dying shortly thereafter. Patrolman Connor was awarded an Honorable Mention for his courageous action in this case.

BEAMAN, PATROLMAN FRANK J., Shield No. 13945, Emergency Service Squad No. 4. At about 12:30 a. m., October 9, 1934, while off duty in civilian clothes and in a restaurant at 781 Courtlandt Avenue, Bronx, three holdup men entered. Upon accosting them, a desperate struggle ensued during which shots were fired. One of the bandits was killed and Patrolman Beaman was shot three times and seriously wounded, and has been on continuous sick report. The two bandits who escaped from the scene were apprehended shortly thereafter by another patrolman.

ETHERIDGE, PATROLMAN HERBERT L. M., Shield No. 9043, 11th Precinct. At about 11:20 p. m., October 25, 1934, on patrol duty, proceeded to a pool parlor at 600 East Fifth Street, Manhattan, where two men were perpetrating a holdup. He immediately engaged in an exchange of shots with the bandits, holding them at bay and disarming and arresting them with the assistance of other patrolmen.

LITTLE, PATROLMAN EDWARD P., Shield No. 13273, 105th Precinct. At about 1:10 a. m., December 7, 1934, on radio motor patrol duty, stopped at a parking field at Rockaway Boulevard and Third Street, Queens, where several persons were engaged in an altercation. Upon accosting them, four men drew weapons and in an an exchange of shots which ensued one of the men and Patrolman Little were shot. He sustained serious wounds and has been on continuous sick report. All the thugs were disarmed and arrested together with nine others, who were also engaged in the altercation.

The Rhinelander Medal

KING, DETECTIVE WILLIAM F., Shield No. 1131, 18th Division, Main Office. Performed detective duty of highly exceptional nature, and through his persistent efforts over a period of six and one-half years effected the arrest of a man on December 13, 1934, who had kidnaped and murdered a ten-year-old girl in the woods in Greenburgh, Westchester County, New York.

The Isaac Bell Medal

PARSONS, PATROLMAN WILLIAM C. W., Shield No. 15288, 120th Precinct. At about 3:50 a. m. November 20, 1934, on patrol duty, discovered a fire raging in a vacant warehouse at 2855 Richmond Terrace, Mariner's Harbor, Richmond. Knowing that there were several families living on barges which were adjacent to the burning building, he proceeded along the pier to the barges and awakened and assisted the people to safety. He sustained severe burns about his head, neck and right hand, and was on sick report for five and one-half weeks.

The Peter F. Meyer Medal

HORAN, PATROLMAN JOSEPH F., Shield No. 2139, 22d Precinct. At about 11:40 a. m. December 31, 1934, on patrol duty, proceeded to a lake in Central Park in the vicinity of 101st Street, Manhattan, where a boy had fallen through the ice. He entered the icy water, and when the boy disappeared beneath the ice dove into the water. In locating and rescuing him, Patrolman Horan sustained injuries and suffered from exposure, and was in the hospital six days and on sick report until February 13, 1935.

The Brooklyn Citizens' Medal

MURPHY, PATROLMAN ANDREW P., Shield No. 16525, Emergency Service Squad No. 13. At about 2:04 p. m. November 9, 1934, responded with the

Honored for Exceptional Bravery in Line of Duty

Detective Wm. F. King *Detective J. E. Roberts* *Patrolman E. P. Little*

Emergency Service Squad to a hotel at 51 Charles Street, Brooklyn, where a demented woman was threatening to leap from a window on the twenty-second floor. After all attempts to reach her proved futile, Patrolman Murphy was lowered by a life-belt and rope from a window on the twenty-third floor, and, swinging into the window below, pushed her into the room and restrained her.

The Walter Scott Medal

PHILLIPS, DETECTIVE FRANCIS D. J., Shield No. 1200, 18th Division, Main Office—At about 10:20 p. m., February 4, 1934, accompanied by another detective, intercepted a notorious criminal in an automobile at 240th Street and Broadway, Manhattan, who, with two others, had participated in a holdup of a bank at 543 West 110th Street, Manhattan, on July 7, 1933. As the criminal was about to use a pistol he was shot and seriously wounded, and disarmed and arrested. The two accomplices were located and arrested shortly thereafter.

The Martin J. Sheridan Medal

O'NEILL, DETECTIVE FRANCIS, Shield No. 5, 18th Division, Main Office—At about 11 a. m., July 19, 1934, entered an apartment at 3856 Tenth Avenue, Manhattan, for the purpose of apprehending a man wanted for two murders. Detective O'Neill remained in the apartment, and at about 12:50 p. m. the murderer entered. Upon being accosted, he resisted arrest, a fierce struggle ensued, during which he attempted to stab the detective with a pocket spring knife, and he was shot and fatally wounded.

The Daniel B. Freedman Medal

LEYES, PATROLMAN JOSEPH J., Shield No 18492, 69th Precinct—At about 3 p. m., February 10, 1934, on radio motor patrol duty, proceeded to Fresh Creek, Jamaica Bay, at the foot of Flatlands Avenue, Brooklyn, where a boy had fallen through the ice. He entered the icy water and with great difficulty swam toward shore with him. He attempted to place the boy on some ice which appeared secure, but it kept breaking and he became exhausted. He, together with the boy, were brought to safety by others.

The William McLain Freeman Medal

KAUTZ, PATROLMAN CHRISTIAN J., Shield No. 11210, 90th Precinct—At about 12:15 a. m., January 21, 1934, on patrol duty, pursued four men who were escaping from a garage at 111 Franklin Avenue, Brooklyn, where they had held up a merchant and fired a shot at him. He engaged in an exchange of shots with one of the bandits, whom he shot and killed.

The Leroy W. Baldwin Medal

BARTS, PATROLMAN CHARLES A., Shield No. 10783, 32d Precinct—At about 8:45 p. m., March 1, 1934, on patrol duty, entered an apartment house at 246 West 129th Street, Manhattan, where a man had shot and killed another man. He encountered the murderer on the roof of the premises where he had sought refuge. He was about to shoot Patrolman Barts, who shot and killed him.

The Charles H. Sabin Medal

SHEEHY, DETECTIVE DANIEL, Shield No. 261, 18th Division, Main Office—At about 10:30 p. m., February 4, 1934, accompanied by another detective, intercepted a notorious criminal in an automobile at 240th Street and Broadway, Manhattan, who, with two others, had participated in the holdup of a bank at 543 West 110th Street, Manhattan, on July 7, 1933. As the criminal was about to use a pistol, he was shot and seriously wounded, and disarmed and arrested. The two accomplices were located and arrested shortly thereafter.

The Ernest Fahnestock Medal

WINDISCH, DETECTIVE EVERETT H., Shield No. 1057, 18th Division, 5th Detective District (was patrolman, Shield No. 15331, 30th Precinct, at time of occurrence)—At about 12:25 a. m., July 18, 1934, on duty on a special post, accosted a man who had stolen a taxicab after he had robbed the operator at 138th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, Manhatttan. A terrific struggle ensued during which the bandit was disarmed, and when he made a gesture to draw another weapon, Patrolman Windisch shot and killed him.

The National Surety Medal for Valor

BOERUM, PATROLMAN REON E., Shield No. 17816, 3d Precinct—At about 11:15 p. m., August 24, 1934, while on a ferryboat in New York Bay in the vicinity of Bedloe's Island, en route to station house for duty, a woman attempted suicide by jumping into the water and with great difficulty, swam with her and held her afloat until he was assisted to the ferryboat by members of the crew.

Honorable Mention

LITTLE, EDWARD P., Shield No. 13273, and PETERSOHN, JOHN L., Shield No. 10378, patrolman, 105th Precinct—At about 1:10 a. m., December 3, 1934, on radio motor patrol duty, stopped at a parking field at Rockaway Boulevard and Third Street, Queens, where several persons were engaged in an altercation. Upon accosting them, four men drew weapons and in an exchange of shots which ensued, one of the men and Patrolman Little were shot. Patrolman Little sustained serious wounds and has been on continuous sick report. All the thugs were disarmed and arrested, together with nine others, who were also engaged in the altercation.

The Department Medal of Honor carries 1½ points on each civil service examination for promotion. The Police Combat Cross carried 1¼ points. Honorable mention with any medal carries 1¼. These points are added to the score of the candidate seeking promotion.

CONSPICUOUS BRAVERY AWARDS

Two local Negro officers of the law figured in the annual award of medals for 1934 for deeds of conspicuous bravery. They were Detective John E. Roberts and Patrolman Charles A. Barts, Of the 20 honored, Detective Roberts was accorded most outstanding distinction. He won the Department Medal of Honor, the highest award that the Police Department can make, is usually conferred posthumously, and a most influential factor when promotions are under consideration.

Detective Roberts shot and killed one of three thugs while engaged in a pistol duel. He was shot three times, seriously wounded and has been on the sick list ever since. The other two were captured by a police officer while attempting to escape from the scene. The shooting occurred at 5:10 in the afternoon of November 6, when the detective, in a radio car, went to the apartment house at 525 East 117th Street where the trio was attempting to extort money. Patrolman Barts chased a man who had shot and killed another, on the roof of an apartment house. When the murderer was about to fire, the officer killed him.

It is no small tribute to a member of the New York Police Department to receive the most coveted award of the year for bravery, the first time to go to the Negro race. The selection of Detective Roberts as honor man is indicative of the spirit of liberality and fair play for which New York is noted. Such incidents emphasize the fact that the race is slowly but surely winning public recognition. Twenty-five years ago it would have been impossible to give a Negro an award. There was none in the Police Department

dropped on a rope from a room above Punke's and kicked the man back into the twentieth-story room from which he threatened to jump. Bands of both departments escorted the medal winners and a guard of mounted policemen accompanied them on their review past the Mayor's stand.

NEW YORK TIMES

JUN 13 1935

FORMER POLICEMAN TO BE MAGISTRATE

Sweeney, Deputy Commissioner, Who Studied Law While on Force, Promoted by Mayor.

CITY HEROES GET MEDALS

33 Visiting Mayors See Police and Firemen Honored at Ceremony for Bravery.

Mayor La Guardia took a novel step yesterday in pursuance of his policy of advancing career men in city service by announcing the promotion of Second Deputy Police Commissioner Vincent J. Sweeney to the city magistrates' bench.

In making the announcement during the annual presentation of honor medals to members of the Police and Fire Departments, the Mayor explained that Mr. Sweeney's elevation meant seven promotions in subordinate grades of the Police Department, down to the rank of patrolman. Medal winners, their relatives and 2,000 spectators cheered the announcement, which came as a surprise to the prospective appointee. Yesterday was the first time that honor medals have been presented to policemen and firemen at the same ceremony.

The Mayor extolled the heroism of the city's police and firemen and declared that New York would not tolerate gangsters or terrorism. He faced the medal winners from a small grand stand in front of City Hall, while amplifiers carried his words to spectators in City Hall Park.

Wants Heroes to Be Living.

"It is very easy for the Mayor to pin medals on the chests of heroes," he said, "but it is extremely painful and difficult to present them to the widows and parents of men killed in the line of duty.

"Let your conduct be such that the number of men to be decorated will increase, and the number of widows will decrease. It is much easier to provide a grave in potter's field for the bandits and punks than to have a medal engraved for the widow of an officer. Let the word go out that the uniform of the New York Police Department is not a target for gunmen from all over the country."

Thirty-three Mayors of seacoast cities, here for a convention, attended the ceremonies. State and Federal officials were also invited. Deputy Commissioner Sweeney was standing near the grand stand when Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine read a Police Department order directing him to report to the Mayor on July 9.

Resuming charge of the ceremonies, the Mayor then announced that on that date he would appoint Mr. Sweeney as a city magistrate. A magistrate not yet designated by the Mayor will be advanced to Special Sessions Court on the same day, replacing Justice Henry W. Herbert. Commissioner Valentine said he would name his new Second Deputy on July 9.

"I will authorize Commissioner Valentine to fill the job of deputy commissioner from the ranks, and that means promotion all along the line," the Mayor said. "Boys, this is on the level."

Studied Law While on Force.

Mr. Sweeney became a policeman in 1903 and studied law. In 1912 he was graduated from New York University and was admitted to the bar in the same year. In 1918 he became a lieutenant assigned to the Police Department's Legal Bureau. In 1926 Mr. Sweeney rose to captain, meanwhile having served in almost every division of the department. Former Police Commissioner Joseph Warren made him a deputy inspector in 1927 and former Commissioner Mulrooney gave him command of the Brooklyn Detective Division with the rank of deputy chief inspector. He was named Second Deputy Police Commissioner last September. He lives with his wife, Nellie, at 217 Brooklyn Avenue, Brooklyn. They have no children.

Mr. Sweeney's present salary is $7,000 a year. As a city magistrate he will receive $10,840. Chief City Magistrate James E. McDonald designated Magistrate Alexander Brough yesterday to preside over the courts while the chief magistrate is on vacation at Saratoga Springs. Magistrate Brough is dean of the bench and now sits in Homicide Court.

Highest Award to a Negro.

Detective John E. Roberts, a Negro, received the Police Department Medal of Honor and became the first member of his race to win this highest award. He was shot three times last November in a gun battle with thugs in which he shot and killed one and aided in capturing the others. Still weak from his wounds, he had to be assisted to the platform to get his medal.

Eight relatives of policemen who died in performance of their duty received medals. Alderman Morton Moses, sponsor of a bill giving one year's pay to relatives of deceased policemen, said he expected passage of the bill at Tuesday's meeting of the Board of Aldermen. The measure already has been passed in the Board of Estimate.

Richard J. Donovan, first-grade fireman, received four medals for two acts of bravery last year. He got The Brooklyn Citizen's Medal and the Department Medal for rescuing a steeplejack from a flagstaff eighty feet above a Brooklyn street last December. He also received the Thomas A. Kenny Memorial Medal and a Department Medal for a difficult rescue of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Emslie in an incendiary fire at 70 Cranberry Street, Brooklyn, in April, 1934.

Rear Admiral Yates Stirling pinned the Henry D. Brookman Medal and a Department Medal on Fireman Joseph D. Cahill for preventing the suicide of Walter T. Punke in the Victoria Hotel last July. Cahill, a former sailor,

Policemen and Firemen – 1935

New York.

DEMAND NEGRO POLICE AFTER B'KLYN RIOTS

Amsterdam News

Cop Brutality Blamed for Two Outbreaks Last Saturday

New York
2-19-35

By WESLEY McD. HOLDER.

A crusade for Negro policemen in Brooklyn's Negro districts was scheduled to be launched yesterday by the National War Veterans Association as a result of two race riots in that borough last Saturday. The riots are alleged to have resulted from police brutality there.

The veterans association is headed by Elvin L. Sullinger, whose timely arrival at 1880 Dean street is credited with preventing a more bloody outbreak last Saturday when more than 150 enraged Brooklynites attacked three white plainclothesmen and tore a prisoner from their grasp. The officers were severely beaten and showered with sticks, stones and other missles.

A few hours later, a second crowd threatened another white policeman for striking and arresting a 17-year-old youth who interfered when the officer seized a small boy for fighting with the patrolman's six-year-old daughter at Howard avenue and Bergen street. The 17-year-old youth and his 13-year-old sister were arrested after Negro and white witnesses had fought fiercely in the streets. The patrolman was in civilian clothes.

The first outbreak occurred when three plainclothesmen, Robert Connors, Al Gatens and Paul Spellman of the Thirteenth District, seized Milton Fletcher, 24, 2040-A Fulton street in front of 1884 Dean street and accused him of being one of a group of youths who had been shooting dice on the sidewalk.

Fletcher, who had been visiting his mother-in-law, at the Dean street address, declared that the white men didn't identify themselves as officers, so he struck the first one who seized him. The plainclothesman retaliated and Connors rushed to his aid.

The crowd, incensed at the incident and already indignant at other reported cases of police brutality in Brooklyn, gathered around and demanded the release of Fletcher whom they charged had not been one of the dice-playing group on the sidewalk. One of the officers is alleged to have yelled "Get away from here, you niggers," and the fighting broke out.

Several white witnesses rushed to the aid of the officers and in a few minutes the street was filled with warring factions. Women and children rushed from houses carrying missles and others threw sticks and stone from windows and rooftops.

Cops Fire, Pistols.

The detectives, still holding on to their prisoner, fought back as best as they could, but when the mob grew to about 150 excited attackers, Fletcher was torn from their grasp. The officers then fought their way to a nearby doorway where they drew their pistols and fired in the air. At the sight of the drawn revolvers the excitement of the crowd increased and stones, sticks and garbage cans continued to pour in their direction.

In the meantime, someone notified police headquarters and a radio alarm was immediately broadcast. Five radio cars swarmed into the neighborhood with Emergency Squad 14. The police immediately plunged into the mob, clubbing the people as they went. Even this did not disperse the angry crowd, which was rapidly becoming more excited.

The mob then started a new rush at the police. It was at this point that Sullinger, commander of the Veterans' organization, arrived. He called on the people to stop and ordered the police to sheath their weapons. "Leave the situation to me, I will take care of it," the commander shouted. The guns were instantly put away and the crowd slowly dispersed.

When the smoke of battle cleared away, the officers were found to be suffering from sprained elbows and hands. Their clothing had been torn. Besides Fletcher, another man, Henry Urguhart, 36, of 489 Cumberland street, Brooklyn, was arrested and each charged with felonious assault.

Second Outbreak.

A short time later, at 2:30 p.m., another riot broke out at Howard avenue and Bergen street, which resulted in the injury of another policeman and the arrest of Joseph Harrison, 17, and his sister, Loretta, 13, both of 2070 Dean street. The officer involved in this battle is Samuel Letowsky, of the Bergen street precinct, who resides at 398 Howard avenue.

According to reports, Letowsky's six-year-old daughter, Joan got into a fight with a little Negro boy on the sidewalk near her home. She received a beating. The father then went to her rescue, seized the boy and dragged him across the street. Joseph Harrison, who was on his way to the store, heard the child's outcry and not knowing that Letowsky was an officer, told him to release the boy. "Mind your damn business," the policeman allegedly retorted.

The youth crossed the street, seized the child by the hand and attempted to tug him away. The patrolman then smashed him squarely in the mouth, knocking the lad down to the sidewalk. Seeing the beating that her brother was getting, Loretta, who was on her way to the shoe store, threw a shoe at Letowsky and hit him on the back. Witnesses, black and white, took sides and the second riot broke out. A block away was a group of policemen, who rushed to the scene and waded into the fight with their clubs. Willie Rhodes of 367 Howard avenue remonstrated with the officers for hitting Harrison and the sister, and he too was cuffed in the face. The rioting continued several minutes until the police were victorious.

Commander Sullinger told The Amsterdam News that unless something is done to curb the overzealous and tactless officers something serious will happen in the neighborhood. "Police are too free with the use of their clubs," the commander said. "Negroes are tired of being beaten up." To allay the situation Mr. Sullinger recommends that Negro patrolmen be placed in Negro districts. His organization will soon start an agitation for Negro officers in Brooklyn, he said.

The commander was also bitter in his denunciation of Captain McCowan of the Seventy-seventh precinct and Captain Heddon of the Seventy-ninth precinct. "To the insulting attitude of these men may be traced much of the trouble in the Negro districts," Mr. Sullinger declared.

Negro residents of Brooklyn have long been incensed over police brutality. Last year, Fletcher Bey, a Moorish leader, was shot to death in his apartment by officers. In February, Audrey Knight, 23, fell victim to police bullets. Prior to this, a young girl had been severely beaten in a park by a white officer, and just a few weeks ago, another young girl was beaten and arrested by a policeman.

When arraigned in Gates Avenue Court Sunday morning Magistrate James A. Blanchfield held Fletcher and Urquhart in $500 bail each for a later hearing next Thursday. Young Harrison was held in $1,000 bail on a felonious assault charge when arraigned in the Adolescent Court Monday. His case was postponed for a

SERGEANT PHILLIP DIGGS, ONLY NEGRO IN PRINCETON, N. J. POLICE DEPT., VISITOR HERE

"You know, I'm a modest sort of a fellow."

This is the way Police Sergeant Phillip Diggs, only Negro member of the Princeton, N. J., police department, described himself when interviewed Tuesday. Here for the day as the guest of Mrs. Ora Brown Stokes, resident director of the Titustown Service Center, together with his wife, Mrs. Myrtle Fisher Diggs, the sergeant revealed himself indeed as "a modest sort of fellow" when it comes to talking about himself.

Mr. Diggs is a native of Matthews County, Va., where he was spending his vacation, and broke into an eighteen-day furlough to pay his first visit to Norfolk. His wife is the daughter of the late J. P. and Mrs. Elizabeth Harris of South Richmond. Mrs. Harris will be remembered as mother matron of the Order of Eastern Star for the state of Virginia for three consecutive terms, and was on the board at the time of her death.

Mrs. Harris enjoyed the unusual distinction of having several chapters of the Order of Eastern Star named in her honor while she was still alive an action which was without precedent up until that time. Mrs. Diggs is also a sister-in-law of Mrs. Jessie Fausett Harris, the novelist, author of "There is Confusion," "The Chinaberry Tree," "Plum Bun," and "Comedy: American Style."

In Department 19 Years

But to get back to Sergeant Diggs, a very "modest sort of a fellow." He has been connected with the Princeton police department for practically 19 years and will be eligible for retirement in October of next year if he cares to take advantage of it. His promotion as a sergeant came in 1933. But of the cirmustances surrounding the citation he will say nothing.

It was only ascertained definitely that his promotion was not routine and coming merely as a matter of seniority, but was awarded for some outstanding service. Just what this service was the Sergeant positively would not say. Sergeant Diggs has participated in many spectacular and unusual arrests but remained reticent when asked about the nature of them—"a modest sort of a fellow."

Asked how he happened to choose police work for a career. Mr. Diggs said that's just what he didn't do. With a comfortable job as custodian of an apartment building nineteen years ago, he was appointed to the Princeton department in fulfillment of a promise made by the then successful candidate for mayor, who promised Negro voters anything they wanted in exchange for their support at the polls.

Hasn't Regretted Choice

He has never regretted the change, however, Sergeant Diggs said in reply to a query to that effect. "I have always been treated courteously and have had no cause to regret ever having been connected with the department," he said. In fact Mr. Diggs recommends police work very highly as a vocation for ambitious young Negro men, in cases where it is possible for them to take advantage of it.

"It affords regular work, is clean, and the pay is to be considered," is the way he sums up the proposition. As for the city of Princeton itself, it has a population of about 30,000, not including a large number of students, according to the officer, and of this number approximately 2,000 are Negroes.

Sergeant Diggs is in command of a detail of fifteen men and his duties are largely supervisory. Impressively tall, well-built and withal distinguished looking, he is every inch the ideal police officer. And although he is, as he says, really "a modest sort of a fellow" and would not say just what herioc deed on his part brought him a well-earned promotion, it is not difficult to imagine him stopping a runaway horse, subduing an unruly thug or insane person, or affecting a rescue under extremely difficult circumstances.

TWO ABLE NEGRO DETECTIVES

In last week's issue of The New York Age comment was made, editorially upon the brutal practices of local police in their treatment of prisoners. In the article, reference was made to a particular incident in which a uniformed patrolman was particularly rough in his handling of a prisoner for no apparent reason. That officer and others of his ilk, were the objects of the editorial and will continue to be condemned by The Age as long as such practices last.

We believe in giving "credit where credit is due," however, and so it is with real pleasure that this week The Age offers its heartiest congratulations to Detectives William Robinson and William Boyden of the West 135th Street station for their superb work on a recent case. Through the efforts of these two Negro officers who have been connected with the police department for a number of years a brutal crime, four months old, has been solved.

Such accomplishments as this serve to add to the fine reputation of which the 32nd precinct detective squad boasts. The community should take pride in the knowledge that they have such men at their service to protect them against evildoers.

Messrs. Robinson and Boyden, our commendations.

Policemen and Firemen- 1935.

New York.

29 Sergeants Are Advanced By Valentine

Promotions to Lieutenants Today Include Battle, 1st Negro Policeman in City

Schreiber Also on List

Suppressed Tong War in '29; Kee and Dowd Others

Twenty-nine sergeants will be promoted to lieutenants by Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine today in a ceremony at Police Headquarters. Outstanding in the list is Sergeant Samuel J. Battle, the first Negro policeman in New York, who has been attached to the West 135th Street station since his appointment October 9, 1911. The promotion puts him directly in line for examination for captain and gives him an opportunity to become the first Negro police captain of the Harlem district.

Sergeant Harry Schreiber, of the West Thirtieth Street station, also on the list, is treasurer of the Shomrim, the Jewish police organization. He was instrumental in suppressing tong troubles in Chinatown in 1929 and has been at Elizabeth Street and with the Telegraph Bureau at Headquarters.

Among the others are James A. Kee, who as a detective in 1925 captured two men who had robbed the home of F. H. LaGuardia, then President of the Board of Aldermen, in the Bronx, and recovered silverware they had stolen, and Bernard W. Dowd, who broke up the White Hand gang in Brooklyn, and in 1925 traced to West Philadelphia the Diamond brothers, who were wanted for the murder of two messengers for the West End Bank in Brooklyn.

The list of promotions follows:

HARRY SCHREIBER, West Thirtieth Street Station. Residence, 148-25 Eighty-eighth Avenue, Jamaica, Queens. Appointed March 20, 1906.

JAMES A. KEE, Acting Lieutenant, 18th Division (detective division). Residence, 677 Lincoln Place, Brooklyn. Appointed September 13, 1906.

FRED FLEISCHMANN, Liberty Avenue, Brooklyn. Residence, 9048 186th Street, Hollis, Queens. Appointed February 2, 1907.

ELLIOTT SUITS, main office. Residence, 436 Heberton Avenue, Staten Island. Appointed February 28, 1907.

MAX MORRIS, Sedgwick Avenue, Bronx. Residence, 2994 Zulette Avenue, Bronx. Appointed April 1, 1907.

LEONARD J. PRESTON, motorcycle division. Residence, 116-31 205th Street, St. Albans, Queens. Appointed May 4, 1907.

BERNARD W. DOWD, 18th Division (automobile squad). Residence, 160 Ninety-first Street, Brooklyn. Appointed August 1, 1907.

FRANK J. BROSSNER, Greenwich Street. Residence, 4414 Cayuga Avenue, Bronx. Appointed October 21, 1907.

HOGAN McCURDY, Lawrence Avenue, Brooklyn. Residence, 7520 Tenth Avenue, Brooklyn. Appointed June 30, 1909.

THOMAS H. KENNELLY, emergency service division (squad No. 5), Amsterdam Avenue. Residence, 2386 Ryer Avenue, Bronx. Appointed July 29, 1909.

GEORGE E. GROOT, Bathgate Avenue, Bronx. Residence, 323 Mosholu Parkway, Bronx. Appointed August 30, 1909.

THOMAS J. GILLEN, Old Slip. Residence, 717 Avenue M, Brooklyn. Appointed November 8, 1909.

THOMAS LYNAM, Fifth Avenue, Brooklyn. Residence, 2173 Sixty-fifth Street, Brooklyn. Appointed September 24, 1910.

MICHAEL J. MANNION, Traffic P, Jamaica, Queens. Residence, 107-23 109th Street, Queens. Appointed May 29, 1911.

SAMUEL J. BATTLE, 18th Division, 6th Det. Dist. Residence, 225 West 138th st., Manhattan. Appointed June 28, 1911.

CHARLES H. HAASE, Richmond Hill, Queens. Residence, 93-01 211th Street, Queens. Appointed October 9, 1911.

THOMAS F. KELLY, 14th Division, Brooklyn. Residence, 2049 East Twenty-ninth Street, Brooklyn. Appointed October 9, 1911.

FRANCIS P. NEYLON, motor transport maintenance division. Residence, 1142 East Fortieth Street, Brooklyn. Appointed October 9, 1911.

MICHAEL O'DONNELL, Creedmore, Queens. Residence, 1374 Dickens Avenue, Queens. Appointed February 5, 1912.

GEORGE O. BUPREAU, Ryer Avenue, Bronx. Residence, 364 East 235th Street, Bronx. Appointed March 25, 1912.

WILLIAM G. MURRAY, motor transport maintenance division. Residence, 1881 Grand Concourse, Bronx. Appointed March 25, 1912.

ANTON A. STRAUSSNER, Newtown, Queens. Residence, 2578 100th Street, Queens. Appointed June 17, 1912.

JOHN O. BECKER, Traffic F, East Sixty-seventh Street. Residence, 112-20 103d Street, Richmond Hill, Queens. Appointed August 7, 1912.

FREDERICK KOCH, Traffic C, West Thirtieth Street. Residence, 557 Broadway, Astoria, Queens. Appointed August 26, 1912.

HUGH J. McGARVEY, Ryer Avenue, Bronx. Residence, 446 West 259th Street, Bronx. Appointed June 5, 1913.

GEORGE MEISLEIN, Traffic F. Residence, 25-69 Thirty-sixth Street, Astoria, Queens. Appointed July 3, 1913.

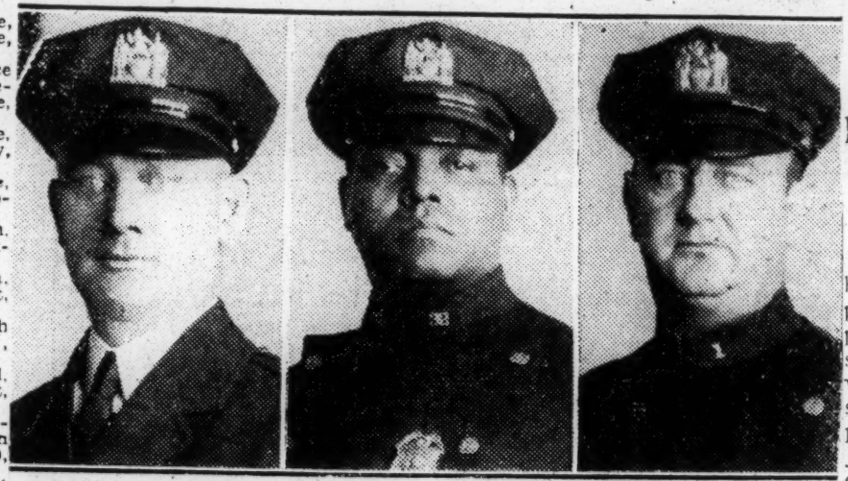
THOMAS M. REILLY, 18th Division. Residence, 34 Cedar Court, Brooklyn. Appointed September 2, 1913.

THOMAS A. KELLY, St. George, S. I. Residence, 197 DuBois Avenue, Queens. Appointed November 20, 1913.

DONALD J. SLATTERY, Lee Avenue, Brooklyn. Residence, 47-06 Lambert Street, Glendale, Queens. Appointed March 31, 1914.

These promotions leave thirty-three sergeants on a list which expires at midnight tonight. Originally the list contained 296 names. The new list, made up as a result of recent examinations, will become effective tomorrow, with an entirely altered seniority.

Sergeants Advanced to Lieutenants by Valentine



Bernard W. Dowd *Samuel J. Battle* *Thomas J. Gillen*

Leonard J. Preston *James A. Kee* *Harry Schreiber*

NEGRO COPS GET HIGHEST AWARDS

Detective John Roberts Given Highest Honor Award In Dept.

The Department Medal of Honor, highest award which the Police Department bestows on courageous policemen — an honor which is bestowed only on the police officer who has performed the most conspicuous deed of bravery — was placed on the chest of Detective John E. Roberts at the annual award of medals for the year 1934 at Police Headquarters on May 9th.

Of the total of 24 medals awarded, of which four were given posthumously — two of the medals went to Negro policemen — Detective Roberts and Patrolman Charles A. Barts.

Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine in announcing the awards gave a brief history for which the awards were made as follows:

Department Medal of Honor

Detective John E. Roberts, Shield No. 930, 18th Division, 28th Squad. At about 5:10 p. m., November 6, 1934, on radio motor patrol duty, proceeded to an apartment house at 525 East 117th Street, Manhattan, where three men were attempting to extort money from another man, and threatening him with bodily harm. Upon entering the apartment where the thugs were located, Detective Robinson engaged in an exchange of shots with them. He was shot three times, sustaining serious wounds, and has been on continuous sick report. He shot and killed one of the thugs and the other two were apprehended by a Patrolman when they attempted to escape from the scene.

The Leroy W. Baldwin Medal

Patrolman Charles A. Barts, Shield No. 10783, 32nd Precinct. At about 3:45 p. m., March 1, 1934, on patrol duty, entered an apartment house at 246 West 129th street, Manhattan, where a man had shot and killed another man. He encountered the murderer on the roof of the premises where he had sought refuge. He was about to shoot Patrolman Barts, who shot and killed him.

A posthumous award of the Department Medal of Honor also went to the relatives of the late Detective James J. Garvey, formerly of the West 135th street Precinct, who on April 21, 1934, was slain by two men on 75th street, near Broadway

WATERBURY, CONN.
AMERICAN

JAN 31 1935

Colored Police Lieutenant Achieves the "Impossible"

Mr. Villard Rejoices Over the Vindication of a Principle Long Maintained Regarding Race Relations

A simple news item in the New York dailies the other day gave me a real thrill. It read as follows: "Twenty-nine sergeants today were promoted to lieutenants by Police Comsr. Lewis J. Valentine. Among them was Samuel J. Battle, a Negro, the first of his race to rise about the rank of patrolman." It took my mind back a long time, to the days of the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the demand of some of us who were associated in that undertaking that Negroes be appointed to the police force of New York city.

Of course we were looked upon as crazy people. It had never been done and it couldn't be done. You could not mix the two races. Had we forgotten that policemen sleep and at times eat in police stations, and that you could not expect white policemen to associate in that way with colored men? Policing the city was a white man's privilege and while you might find a colored man who had the physical courage necessary for the job, you could not find one with the brains and the judgment necessary in some of the dangerous situations which arise in a policeman's life, and of course it was inconveivable that a colored man should have the right to give orders to white men.

Vainly we pointed out that the men best fitted to deal with Negroes were men of their own race; that as Italian detectives were put on the force to deal with Italian criminals and Russians to deal with Russians, so colored police would not only understand colored people better, but actually get greater obedience and cooperation from them than would white.

Well, time passed. Negroes took the civil-service examination for patrolmen but were usually found ineligible or skipped on the list for promotion. Finally one man, Samuel J. Battle, came along who stood so high in his examinations that it was impossible to pass him over, and besides there was a police commissioner in office who was willing that the experiment should be tried. He was appointed and assigned to a station house—and went through hell. He did encounter race prejudice—lots of it. Had he been a colored cadet at West Point he could not have been tried more severely. Whether he was inspired by the fact that he was a pioneer for his race or not, he stuck it out and won the respect and regard of the men who had started out by yielding to senseless prejudice without stopping to reason about it.

Today there are no less than 125 Negroes in the police department doing entirely satisfactory work. Battle was the first to be promoted to sergeant, but another Negro, Dr. Louis T. Wright, has been for years a police surgeon, having the rank now of inspector. The white policemen are very happy to have his services. He was the second Negro medical man to be elected to the College of Surgeons; at a dinner given to him in recognition of this the chief surgeon of the police department testified in highest terms to Dr. Wright's worth as a physician and a man. But, of course, it couldn't be done—before it was attempted. Oil and water wouldn't mix, and white men would never submit to close association with Negroes or to examination by a colored physician.—From an article by Oswald Garrison Villard, in The Nation.

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

MAY 10 1935

COLORED DETECTIVE WINS HIGHEST HONOR

The first living member of his race to receive the award, Detective John E. Roberts, colored, of Police Headquarters, yesterday won the Medal of Honor, the highest decoration bestowed by the Department. The award was based on the detective's bravery in shooting it out with three extortioners last Nov. 6. He killed one and was himself shot three times.

Until a year ago Roberts pounded a beat in Harlem. A letter to Gen. John F. O'Ryan, then Police Commissioner, won him an appointment as a detective.

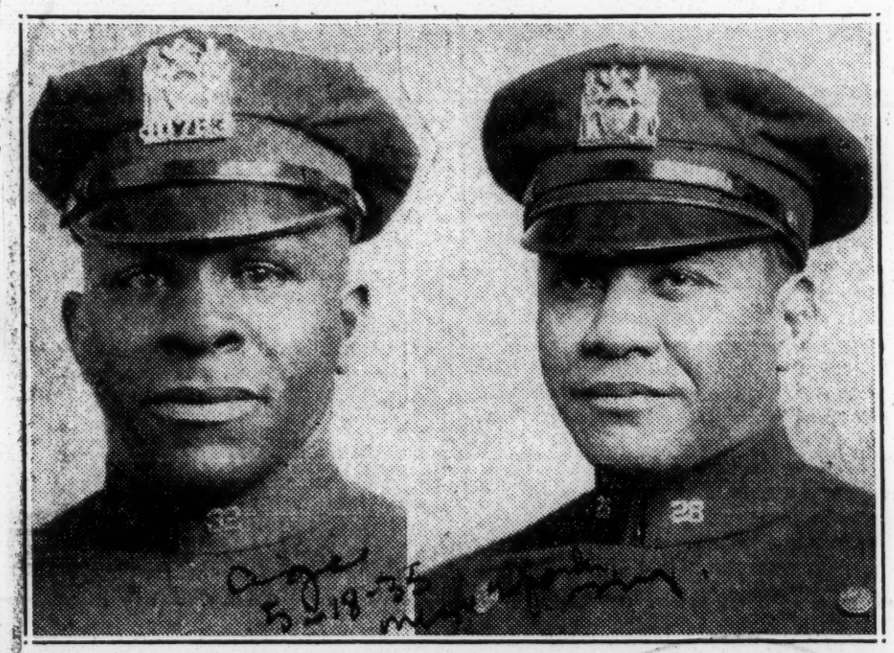
Detective John E. Roberts
First living member of race to win Police Medal of Honor.

The Medal of Honor was awarded posthumously to the following: Patrolman Ernest F. McCarron, burned to death trying to rescue a child from a tenement; Patrolman Philip L. Clarius, shot chasing a Brooklyn holdup man; Detective James J. Garvey, murdered by two men he stopped to question on Broadway; Patrolman Lawrence Ward, fatally wounded by a suspicious character he trailed.

Also to Patrolman Arthur P. Rasmussen, killed in pursuing holdup men; Patrolmen John J. Morrissey, knocked down and fatally injured by a trapped madman; Patrolman John J. Fraser, fatally wounded interrupting a Brooklyn holdup while off duty and Patrolman John P. Monahan, fatally shot while investigating a suspicious apartment in Brooklyn.

The Rhinelander Medal was awarded to Detective William F. King, of the Missing Persons Bureau, for his capture of Albert H. Fish, child slayer.

TWO OF NEW YORK'S FINEST



Patrolman CHARLES A. BARTS and Detective JOHN E. ROBERTS

Policemen and Firemen - 1935

New York.

A BATTLE WON

Negro Cop Is Now Lieutenant Because He Could "Take It"

This Officer Began as Red Cap Here, But Picked Up Badge

IT IS A LONG ROAD—and a hard road—from smashing bags at the Grand Central to the command of a mixed squadron of New York's "finest," But it has been a road that has not been too difficult, never too rocky, for Samuel J. Battle who on Monday became the first Negro to be elevated to the rank of lieutenant in the New York Police Department.

Today after nearly a quarter of a century of service Lieutenant Battle can afford to view his career with equanimity as well as pride. Things are different today, far different from what they were in 1911 when he was appointed to the force as the first Negro to patrol the streets of New York in the uniform of the city's police. Then he was alone, shunned by his fellow cops, spoken to by none except in the course of business. Today he is one of the most popular men on the force known throughout the city for his courage, for his loyalty to duty, for his ability to "take it."

* * *

AND DID HE "take it"? Ask any of the old-timers who knew him in those days, when, as the only Negro on the force, he bore the "black man's burden" with a dignity born of faith in his own and bitter experience. When he was subjected to ostracism and isolated from his white fellow workers as one smitten with a dread plague did he lose his head or whimper like a beaten man? Never. Samuel J. Battle was never beaten. He went about his way unperturbed, determined to make good. Today white officers who were among those who twenty-three years ago scorned him as a Negro, recognize his valor and ability and hail him as a fellow officer.

Although he had weathered the stormy period of his early years in the service and had overcome the bitter hostility of the men he worked with, Patrolman Battle, as late as 1919, again encountered the forces of race prejudice. It was then that he decided to study for promotion to a sergeantcy. The only institution where he could prepare himself for the examination was the Delehanty School When approached the school authorities hestitated to admit a Negro. Finally it was decided to allow his fellow cops studying at the school to determine whether or not he was to be admitted.

A few days before the vote was to be taken, Battle effected a spectacular rescue of a white fellow officer who had shot and killed a man in a Harlem riot. The crowd that had gathered about the white cop was angry in mood, bent on vengeance. The cop was indeed in danger. Into the midst of the threatening crowd. Battle shouldered his way like a leviathan, opening a way to the surrounded policeman. Through his presence of mind and strength of body he was able to rescue his fellow cop. A few days later the vote was taken at the Delehanty School. It was unanimous for the admission of Patrolman Samuel J. Battle.

* * *

HE completed the course. He passed the examination. Again he faced the color bar. He had to wait until a new commissioner was appointed and the lapse of six years before he was appointed. In 1931 he took the examination for lieutenant and, passing, was placed on the list. Last year he was made acting lieutenant and placed in charge of the radio cruiser motor patrol in the Sixth division embracing the Harlem area. He has now been assigned to the Thirty-second precinct in West 135th street where for a number of years he worked faithfully.

Although Lieutenant Battle was not the first Negro appointed to the New York City police force as often asserted in the daily press, he was the first to serve as a uniformed patrolman. As early as 1894 Paul H. Lee served on the force. And in the intervening years a number of others were appointed. But these were prohibited from wearing the uniform upon the streets. It was Battle who received the first recognition as a "cop" as the term is popularly understood.

* * *

IT WAS BATTLE, too, who by sheer force of his character, opened the way for other Negroes to gain a place among New York's "Finest." Where, twenty-three years ago he stood alone, today 118 other Negroes stand shoulder to shoulder with him, proud of the record he has made, recognizing that he has gone a long way towards making their positions possible.

Serving in the Police Department today are in addition to Lieutenant Battle, one police surgeon, Dr. Louis T. Wright; two sergeants, Lewis Chisholm and Emanuel Kline; three policewomen, two patrolwomen, and 110 patrolmen. This number includes detectives, traffic officers, members of the radio motor corps, and members of the crime prevention bureau.

Among the detectives is numbered John Roberts, who for the valor he has repeatedly shown, was on Monday promoted to a first-grade detective. Roberts has but recently been released from the hospital to which he was confined for injuries received in a recent gun fight in which one thug was slain and another wounded.

* * *

IN THE Thirty-second precinct where Lieutenant Battle is performing his duties, he is going about his business, as always, serene, unperturbed and with goodwill in his heart for his fellow men. Harlem recognizes its indebtedness to Samuel J. Battle and rejoices that another son has climbed the ladder one rung higher.

Sergeant Emanuel Kline.

Sergeant Lewis Chisholm.

Police Lieutenant Samuel J. Battle.

Samuel J. Battle Becomes First Negro Police Lieut. In New York; Detective Roberts Is Promoted

Notable among the 29 promotions to the rank of lieutenant made Monday afternoon by Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine was that of Sergeant Samuel J. Battle, who had been in charge of the Radio Gun Squad of the 28th Precinct. Battle is the first Negro policeman to ever become a lieutenant in the New York Police Department. The Commissioner's advancement of Detective John E. Roberts from second to first grade was also announced this week.

The new lieutenant, who lives at 225 West 138th street, was appointed to the force in 1911 after overcoming a feeling of prejudice that bade fair to deny his appointment. It was only after Mayor Gaynor's attention was called to the discrimination that Battle was admitted to the force.

Following his induction into the police department, Battle was assigned to the 68th street police station, where he found himself alone and avoided by fellow patrolmen. Not one of the white policemen would speak to him, even when off duty. Until winter of 1912 this condition continued, but the whites were finally won over by Battle's dignity and reserve. He was transferred to Harlem in 1913, and gained distinction and publicity in his position as the first Negro patrolman to patrol the streets of the community.

In seeking to enter police school where he might study for promotion in 1919, it was decided a vote must be taken among other patrolmen to determine whether or not they wanted a Negro in the school. Patrolman Battle's heroic rescue of a white officer from the hands of a lynch-mad mob helped in deciding which way his fellow officers would vote. They decided unanimously in favor of his entrance into the school.

In that same year Battle took his sergeant's examination, and 1925 found him appointed to that ranking, in which position he served in the 135th street station until two years ago. Becoming an acting lieutenant, he was transferred to the 123rd street station, where he acted as director of the Sixth Division Radio Gun Squad. Monday the police commissioner rewarded him with his latest promotion.

Battle who has been assigned to desk duty at the 135th street station, had been the senior ranking Negro sergeant on he force, the other two being Lewis Chisholm and Emanuel Kline, both of whom recently took he examination for a lieutenancy. Local circles are awaiting the publication of the list of those who passed the test to see how these two race officers fared.

Battle, born in New Bern, N. C., will celebrate his fifty-second birthday next Wednesday, January 16. He is married and has three children.

Detective John E. Roberts, connected with the West 123rd street station, was advanced from second to first grade. Roberts distinguished himself recently when he exchanged fire with Frank Carabella, an alleged extortionist, in a gun battle in a tenement on East 117th street. Despite three gunshot wounds in the abdomen, Roberts succeeded in killing Carabella.

Roberts also attracted public attention last spring when, just after being appointed a detective, he shot and killed a man at 117th street and Lenox avenue running amuck with a knife.

New York Times

JAN 9 1935

HARLEM GREETS NEGRO LIEUTENANT

Battle Finds Desk Burdened With Congratulatory Wires on First Tour of Duty.

CAPTAINCY HIS NEXT GOAL

He Admits Asking Promotion at 'Wishing Tree,' but Denies He Carries Rabbit Foot.

When former Police Sergeant Samuel J. Battle stepped into the West 135th Street station house in Harlem punctually at 8 o'clock yesterday morning he was wearing a shiny blue badge on his uniform overcoat and was grinning broadly. The first Negro patrolman, the first Negro sergeant and the first Negro lieutenant in the history of New York City was greeted with slaps on the back and warm handclasps and smiles.

The day before, when Lieutenant Battle emerged from headquarters building into Centre Market Place, after being promoted, he looked taller than his six-foot-three and bigger than his 280 pounds. And it was "Hi, Sam," "Congratulations, old boy," all down the street, as Lieutenant Battle went striding happily along. Yesterday he began his first tour of duty in a similar atmosphere, opening letters and telegrams and scanning postcards of congratulations.

To see him now, one would think his career had been one long love feast. The reverse is true. Back in 1911, when his good-humored countenance first shone under a departmental visor, the other patrolmen in the West Sixty-eighth Street station made Sam undergo a kind of ordeal by silence. They never spoke to him except in the line of duty.

Everybody grew to like him, though, and after a year or so began passing the time of day with him, on the sly. But, publicly, nobody could overcome the taboo—not before the night in September, 1919, when he dashed single-handed into the thick of a Harlem riot and at the hazard of his own life saved the life of a white policeman. Hardly anything was too good for him after that, not even a sergeantcy.

In those days Patrolman Battle used to do a lot of reading; it fortified him against loneliness and the feeling of segregation. Hawthorne was his favorite writer. Now he reads nothing but police procedure; he intends to go as far as he can. Getting to be a lieutenant was a hard grind, but he has already started the harder two-year grind that lies between him and a captain's shield. He will start to school for that next week, and the prospect of having to meet college men as competitors does not deter him.

Lieutenant Battle denies the rumor in Harlem that he carries a rabbit's hind leg; none of that hindleg business for him, he says, though he confesses to having made a wish at the dedication of the new Harlem "Wishing Tree," when he was standing right up there with the Mayor and Bill Robinson. He wished to become a lieutenant, and there he is.

He had been an acting lieutenant for some time before and he was mightly glad to get that "acting" off his badge, he said yesterday.

The son of slaves belonging to the Battles of North Carolina, he is 51 years old now, with a son and daughter who are college graduates. Another son is a junior in pre-law at New York University.

Southern Editor Maintains Lieutenant Had To Be Good

COLUMBIA, S. C., Jan. 21 (ANP).—The editor of The State, local daily, struck by the fact that a Negro police sergeant was recently promoted to a lieutenancy in New York, was moved to make the following comment:

"Forecasters in past years would have predicted that the chances against a Negro rising to the rank of lieutenant of police in New York were about 10,000 to one. And their estimate of the odds would have been about right. Nevertheless, the prize has been won by Sergeant Samuel J. Battle.

"Now, at the age of 52, the sergeant is promoted to a lieutenancy. It is a very safe surmise that Battle has not only been an alert police officer but a faithful and honest one. Had he worked in with any rackets, or had tin boxes with valuables or bank deposits larger than his salary, it would not have needed a laborious official investigation to bring such circumstances to the attention of police authorities higher up. Watchful eyes of his fellows were upon him. But there were no slips."

BROOKLYN, N. Y.
TIMES UNION

MAY 11 1935

Colored Policeman Honored.

The truth has become stale by repetition that courage is an individual asset; that it is possible in man or woman of any race or clime and that the theories of national or racial superiority with which the world is so unfortunately afflicted now, are equally without support in anthropology or human experience. Significant support of this view is given in the recent award of public honors to members of the police force, who had distinguished themselves in the past year. The highest award for bravery, within the power of the department to be bestowed, went to Detective John E. Roberts, a colored man and a resident of the Bronx.

One happening that gave him fame and the medal of honor took plane on June 3, 1934 when his attention was attracted to a man known as the "Harlem bully," who was terrorizing the occupants of a store with a huge knife. Darting from the place when he saw Detective Roberts, the policeman pursued and eventually killed him. To cap this record, the brave policeman shot and killed an extortioner who had seriously wounded him when the detective interrupted the criminal's attempt to shake down a whiskey still operator. These two successful contests of skill and daring at close range, established Roberts' claim to the highest honor in the power of the department to bestow. And he received his reward modestly and becomingly.

There were other policemen equally worthy who won deserved recognition for courage, resolution and capacity. They were white men, to whom the awards customarily go. What makes the Roberts case distinctive is the fact that from so much available excellent material, a colored member of the force led all the rest.

Ohio

Policemen and Firemen - 1935

COLUMBUS, O.
CITIZEN
JUL 25

NEGROES FORM FIRE COMPANY

Sixteen of Them to Man No. 8 Engine House.

Safety Director W. S. Pealer today ordered 16 Negroes appointed as firemen. After Aug. 22, with a 30-day training period intervening, they will comprise the complete fire-fighting force, except for officers, at station No. 8, at Mt. Vernon-av and Twentieth-st.

Of the 16—their officers will be white men—one holds a Master of Science degree from Ohio State University, and five others have college training up to 3½ years. Seven more are high school graduates; all except one have had at least some high school training.

Following is the personnel of the new all-Negro fire company:

William M. Boyer, 670 Henry-st.
John C. Johnson, 1413 Granville-st.
Herbert F. Turner, 112 Hamilton-av.
Alfred L. Key, 1065 N. Sixth-st.
Herman H. Harrison, 382 Lexington-av.
Coy T. Alston, 1069 Leonard-av.
James M. Long, 1477 Hildreth-av.
John O. Coston, 51 E. Eleventh-av.
George A. Carroll, 200 Jefferson-av.
William W. Brown, 408½ N. Monroe-av.
Harold E. Ward, 1457 Hawthorne-av.
Verdell T. Greene, 1410 Mt. Vernon-av.
Carl T. Jones, 313 W. Goodale-st.
James W. Huckleby, 1337 Granville-st.
John L. Jones, 432 Lexington-av.
William W. Nelson, 236 W. Frambes-av.

COLUMBUS, O.
DISPATCH
JUL 28 1935

For Negro Fire Fighters

Sir: We notice where the safety director has been instructed by Mayor Worley to make plans to establish an all-Negro fire station. In a city where the majority of Negroes are an asset this seems an excellent idea.

Rigid requirements must be passed before the personnel is named and we are sure these firemen will be a great aid to the city fire-fig rs if they are placed in the right locality.

Observer.

Oklahoma

Policemen and Firemen - 1935.

Tulsa Patrolman Rewarded

from all over the country, have arrived, congratulating "Tall Stuff," as he is affectionately known to his many friends, regarding his heroic and almost unbelievable exploits. (Story Page Two).

OFFICER E. K. GOLDMAN

Tulsa Police Kills Desperate Robber

Black dispatch

TULSA, Dec. 5.—Tulsa's police department has rewarded Patrolman E. K. Goldman, fearless Negro officer, who single-handed and alone walked boldly into the Rite Way Grocery store at Greenwood and Oklahoma Place and shot to death a desperate hi-jacker and hold-up man who emptied his pistol at Goldman as he advanced through the dark room. Goldman has been given a big raised in salary since his heroic exploit, unparalelled in the annals of Tulsa's crime history.

Grant Cunningham of 1302 N. Owasso avenue, is dead and Richard Wilson of 928 E. Pine Place, and Robert Dawson of 809 E. Oklahoma street, are in the city jail without bond pending preliminary hearing trial on charges of robbery as the culmination of an attempted hi-jacking of the Rite Way Food store at Greenwood and Oklahoma Place, Saturday, Nov. 23, at 6:18 p. m. Cunningham was shot six times by Officer E. K. Goldman after he had fired at the officer twice and missed him. Cunningham died early Sunday morning at the Municipal hospital.

Statement of Officer Goldman

"Officer C. W. White and I were cruising and we received a call at about 6:18 p. m. that the Rite Way Grocery was being hi-jacked at Greenwood and Oklahoma Place. We were coming south in the 1700 block on N. Hartford when we received the call and started immediately to answer. When we arrived in the 1400 block on North Greenwood near the store we saw a Ford truck pull out from the side of the store. The car turned north on Greenwood from Oklahoma. I told my partner that may be them now. I flashed my light and one of the occupants had a mask on his face. He jumped out of the car and started to run east. We apprehended him and upon search found a lot of money on his person. He was later identified as Deckard Wilson and said that the man in the store had put a pistol on him and made him take the money. We took the other man out of the car. He was later identified as Robert Dawson. We searched these two men and walked them to the store about 30 yards away, to be identified. When we arrived at the front door of the store I saw a man with a pistol in his hand standing about the middle of the store. When I started to enter he ran behind the butcher counter which is located across the north and south of the building. I found out there was no back window for him to escape and told my partner, White, to hold the other two men out there. When I entered the store the man (later identified as Grant Cunningham) ran into the back room and I kept advancing with my flash light. I approached the middle door leading to the rear room. He appeared in front of me shooting and fired two shots at me. He whirled and ran in the south side of the rear room in the dark. I kept advancing and shooting at him. I fired six shots and I have been informed that all six took effect as follows: one that hit just an inch above the naval, going straight through: one shot hit the left thigh coming out near the spine; one hit the right thigh, neither shots breaking any bones; one shot hit and tore off a finger of the right hand; one shot went through the left wrist. I then called the Jackson ambulance and sent Cunningham to the Municipal hospital. Drs. Waynes and Payne were the attending physicians."

The Rite Way store at Greenwood and Oklahoma Place, is operated by Phil Sokol. It is alleged that the $31.80 taken by the robbers was returned to the owner.

The owner, employes and several customers who were in the store at the time of the robbery, were locked in the ice box and in a rest room in the rear of the store.

"Well, it was easy when you think about it," declared E. K. Goldman, heroic Tulsa patrolman who last week shot to death a hi-jacker crouched in the dark, behind counters in the Rite Way grocery. Goldman came out of the gun battle unscratched.

"Most officers place their flashlights directly in front of them when going in similar places, but I learned long ago that a hunted man is scared and shoots at the light. A hunted man shoots at his immediate foe—the light," said Officer Goldman.

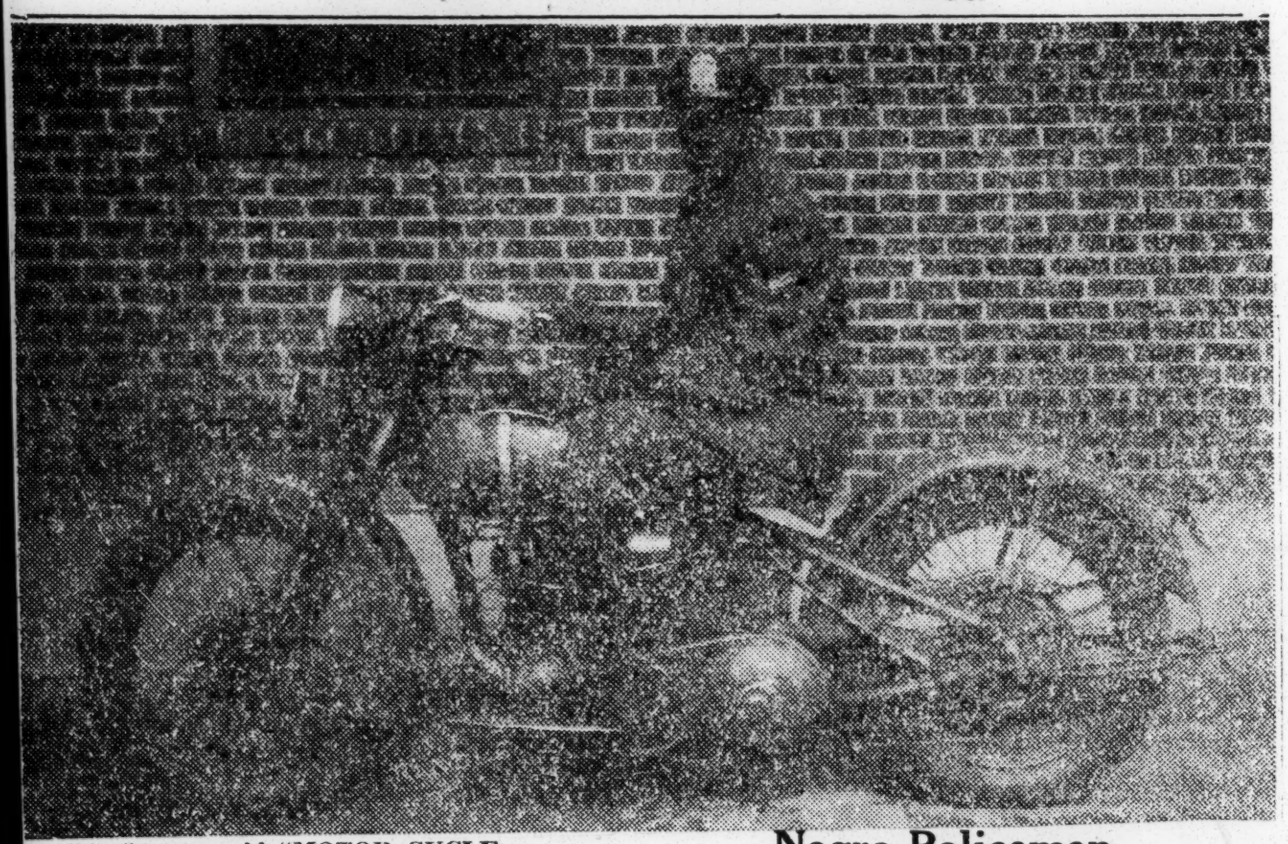
"When I entered the Rite Way store I extended my arm as far out as possible, then turned my light in the direction in which I was going, from my wrist. It is easy to see that the robber could not see me any more than I could see him, except that when he shot I could immediately locate him. He shot at my arm. I shot six times directly at the point from where his pistol spouted. Evidently he had his pistol held directly in front of him because I punctured him six times."

This is the second death encounter in which Goldman has established the supremacy of the law since being on the Tulsa police force. Scores of letters coming

Policemen and Firemen—1935

Oklahoma

He Rides The Streets of Tulsa



This 32 year old "MOTOR CYCLE PATROLMAN" is Mr. Armstead W. Berry, who rides the streets of Tulsa, Okla., and issues out tickets to persons who like to try out their new stream line cars and violate the speed limit. Mr. Berry is one of the few Negro Motor Patrolmen in the United States. New York and one or two other eastern cities have Negro riders.

He is a product of the "Sunflower State." Berry was born in Oswego, Kans. He left Oswego in his infancy with his parents and moved to Muskogee, Oklahoma where he lived and ATTENDED SCHOOL. He received his appointment under Col. Hoop administration and was appointed after a competitive examination in which he ranked sixth. The appointment of Mr. Berry has filled a much needed part in Tulsa. He has started about his work in such a way that all his friends and ALL Tulsa are predicting a great future for Mr. Berry as a Peace officer. —(Photo Okla. Eagle)

Negro Policemen

"I have only one Negro policeman in Oklahoma City who is worth his salt," declared City Manager Orville Mosier Wednesday morning following a request from a delegation from the Oklahoma City Negro Business League that a Negro traffic officer be placed at Second and Stiles street.

The manager went on to point out that most of the Negro policemen depend upon white officers to make their arrests and that as a general proposition Negro policemen in Oklahoma City had been a complete failure.

We are going to agree with the city manager that Negro officers in Oklahoma City have not fully measured up to the standard of white officers from point of service rendered. Not enough arrests are made, and that especially in connection with raiding they are largely inclined to shift this class of work to the white officers. We are in accord with the manager as to what we see, but we reach different conclusions as to the cause. The city manager in his conversation with the Business League committee, intimated that he felt that the failure came because of inability and incapacity of Negroes to serve in this responsible position. The Black Dispatch believes that the trouble lies in the unfair conditions under which the black officer must work.

Negro policemen in Oklahoma City have for years been nothing more than political footballs. Whenever a campaign starts for councilman in the Second ward, the several candidates running against the incumbent make their campaign in the Negro district baiting would-be policemen. A half dozen Negroes are told that they will be placed on the force if so-and-so is elected.

Turn now to the white policemen down town. Almost any Negro in Oklahoma City knows some white officer who has been on the force for the past twenty or twenty-five years. Several have longer tenures. The policy with white policemen is to leave them alone when they make good. Change of administration need not worry them. On the other hand the recent campaign just closed was an occasion to menace the job of every Negro on the force. Two candidates we have in mind are said to have made open statements as to whom they would fire, and whom they would hire if elected. Self preservation is the first law of nature. It is only human that under such trying conditions Negro policemen would be afraid to act. They love their jobs just as much as does anyone else.

The city manager, in all of his dealings with Negroes, has shown a tendency to be fair, and in what we are saying here we are endeavoring to assist him in looking through this matter, instead of looking at it. You cannot have two or three white bosses and perhaps one Negro boss standing around threatening and intimidating Negro police officers and expect the maximum of service. Why we know one Negro on the Eastside who has endeavored to play shake-down among the underworld. His apparent influence at the city hall has the Negro officers guessing as to the source of his power. The man operates like this: If some Negro is arrested he calls him in later and holds a conversation which suggests that "I can stop so-and-so." You may judge what effect this has on Negro policemen.

Getting down, however, to the record, we want to say that Oklahoma City has had opportunity to see what a Negro officer could do under proper and favorable conditions. Take the case of William Washington. So far as arrests and ability to ferret out crime the city police department, regardless of color, has had no better officer. Washington, a Negro, went on the force during the Cargill administration. Through the assistance of Councilman Mike Donnelley and Bob Parman, this writer was able to make this designation. We shall always be proud of this selection.

At that time, Sammy Sampson, a former white policeman of this city, was running wild on the Eastside in the dope traffic. Everyone said that it was impossible to apprehend and convict such malfactors. Washington went on the force, a green man, with no previous experience. In his first thirty days on the force he made 117 arrests and secured 115 convictions out of this number.

A large number of this group where whites, both men and women. Washington jailed all law violators regardless of color, and this was the beginning of his downfall. We have never been able to discover why a white man violating the law in the Negro neighborhood is not just as much a criminal as a white man violating the law in a white neighborhood. We have never been able to determine the psychology of a police department which assumes that white violators should be arrested by white folks and Negro officers should stay out of the picture.

At any rate, it is open knowledge that William Washington went off the force because HE ARRESTED TOO MANY WHITE FOLK." His discharge papers said "for the good of the department," but back of this was the determination not to have a Negro on the force who has the courage to attack law violations regardless of the color of the criminal.

What effect do you suppose that such unwritten law has upon the Negro officer? We say here and now that if Negro officers knew that their jobs were not at stake when they arrest white folk, the police chief would have to kick the back side out of the jail in order to provide room for white boys who bring white girls into the Negro section at night to purchase liquor and engage in immoral relationships with these girls on dark streets.

Nightly, white men ride through the streets of the Eastside in their cars endeavoring to entice Negro women to "take a ride." Negro officers are afraid to stop this because of fear of arresting some white man with influence and pull. This writer knows of one Negro girl who was raped and two others who were courageous enough to refuse to get into a car when the white men were attempting to impersonate officers. These are the terrible conditions existing on the Eastside, yet the unwritten word is that a Negro who arrests too many white folk must go. William Washington, a former Negro officer, stands among the jobless today, a victim of this rule.

There is, however, another view. The charge is made that Negro officers do not make raids and clean up the Eastside as they should. How can one Negro officer make a raid? When has the city allowed two Negro officers to work together? How many one-man raids have white officers made on the Eastside? Answer these questions and you have the meat in the cocoanut.

All over the United States Negroes have made fine records as policemen. Their courage and faithfulness to duty is recognized everywhere. In our neighboring city of Tulsa one can find Negro men who have been kept on the police and sheriff's department for many years. Merit counts down that way and as a result efficiency has been developed to a high degree. In Tulsa the names of Barney Cleaver, "Tall Stuff" Goldman and John Smitherman have been household words for two generations. Oklahoma City has just as capable Negro citizens as Tulsa. What we need here is a merit and civil service system, together with the right of Negro officers to apprehend crime without regard to the color of men's skins.

They Keep Order in Tulsa, Okla.

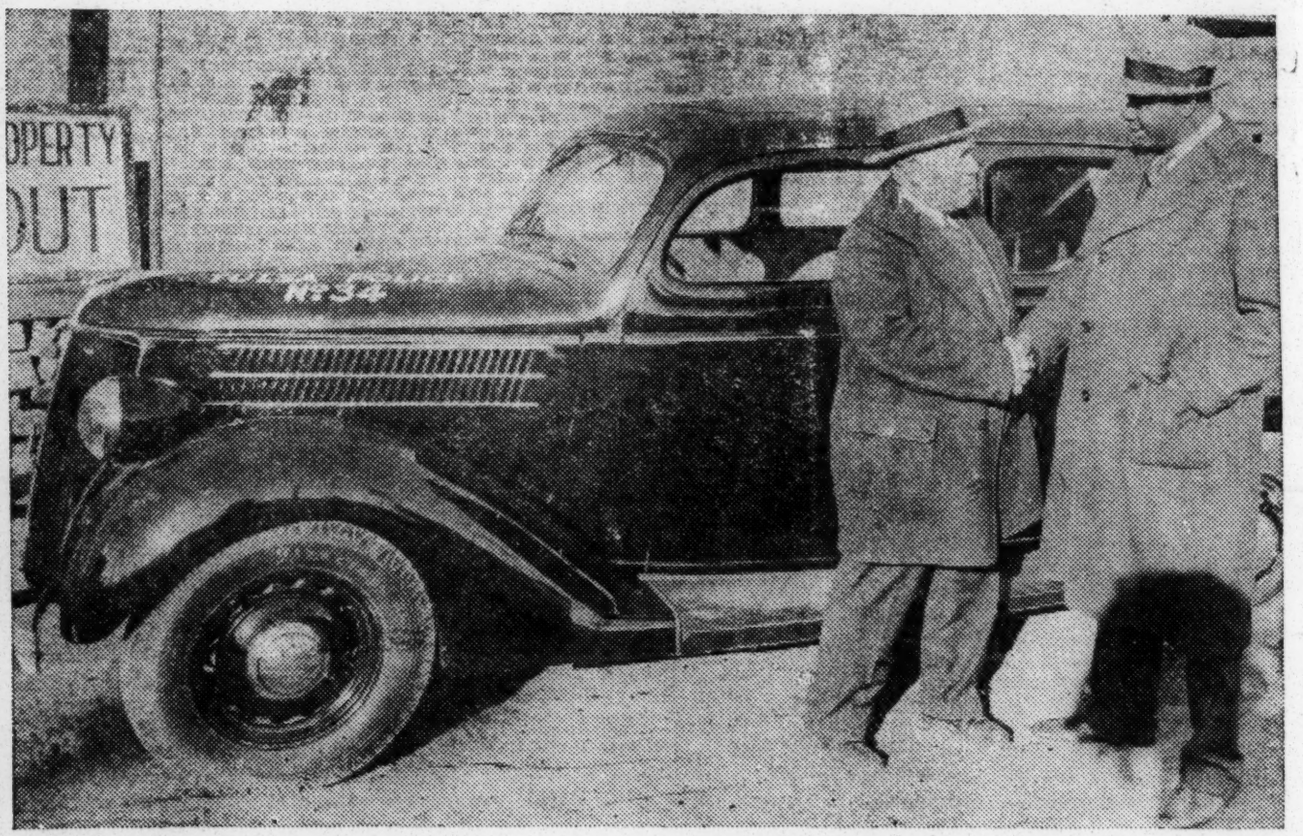
The seven uniformed police officers of Tulsa, Oklahoma (above) who, together with three plainclothes men working out of the sheriff's office, keep order in the colored sections of the city. One is a traffic policeman, while the others use scout cars. At right, Deputy Sheriff Josh Webb of Tulsa County.

Tulsa, with a colored population of approximately twenty thousand, boasts of having more colored police officers in proportion to this population than any other city. The city also employs drivers on the busses operating in the segregated sections.

Policemen and Firemen-1935

Oklahoma

SCOUT CARS FOR TULSA'S NEGRO POLICE



In addition to declaring that his Negro police officers are efficient and capable, Police Commissioner P. W. Hoop believes that to prove their value to the department, Tulsa's Negro officers should be provided with every modern method of running down criminals.

In the picture above is seen Officer John Smitherman, veteran Tulsa county peace officer, and at present a member of the Tulsa police department. Smitherman has weathered 25 years in the law enforcement business, during which period he has always gotten his man without having to shoot.

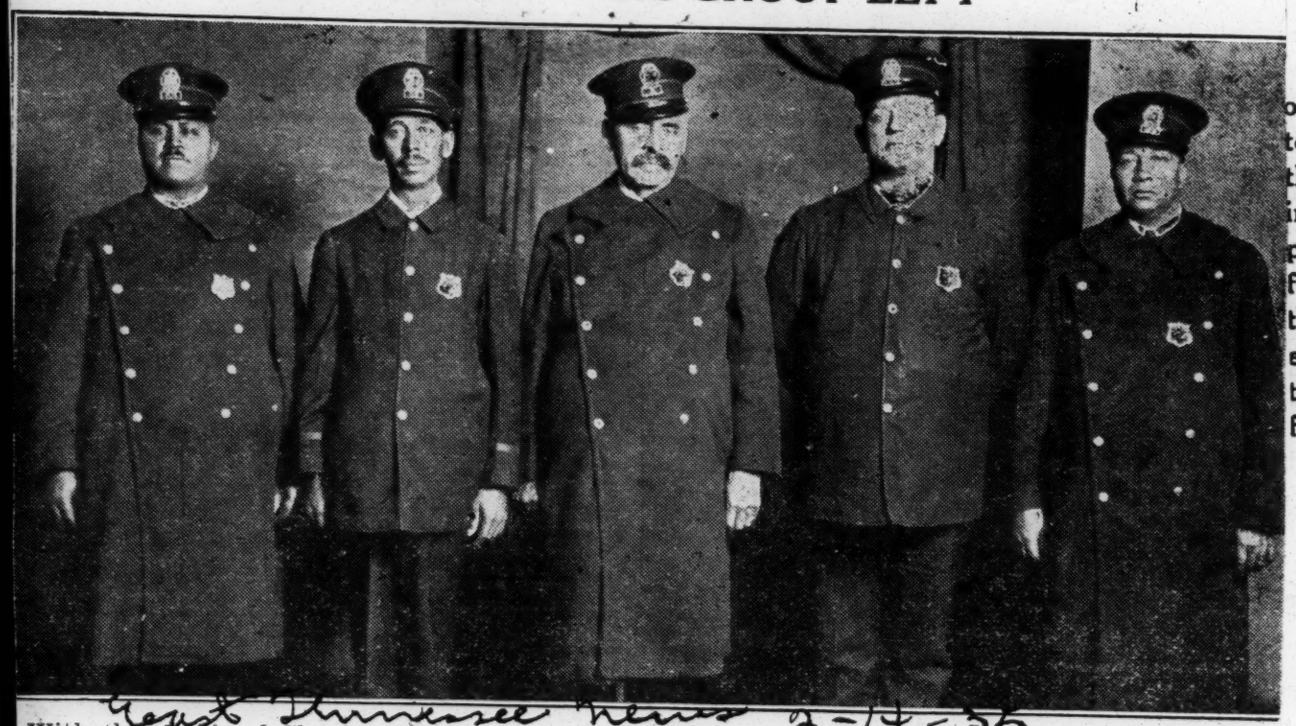
Black Dispatch readers should note on the hood of the car the insignia of the Tulsa police patrol, Car No. 34. The Black Dispatch photographer caught Officer Smitherman just as he arrived in Oklahoma City, in line of duty, shaking hands with Officer Ernest Jones, of the Oklahoma City department.

Working in pairs and using three patrol cars, Negro officers in Tulsa are equipped for effective service. Recently, E. K. Goldman, Negro scout car patrolman, apprehended and killed a dangerous yegg-man caught looting one of Tulsa's chain stores.

Policemen and Firemen - 1935

Tennessee.

ONLY ONE OF THIS GROUP LEFT



With the death of Charles Redmon, shown at right end of the above group, Knoxville has only one of the above group of policemen left. Shown above, reading left to right: Ernest Scruggs, now active on the force; Frank Robinson, Joseph Reynolds, James Smith, Charles Redmon, all deceased. The death of Mr. Redmon at the Knoxville General Hospital on last Friday, occurred several years after leaving the service. Funeral was conducted from the Vine Avenue Presbyterian Church on Tuesday afternoon, Rev. S. A. Downer, the pastor, officiating. One son, Alonzo, of Mansfield, Ohio, and a daughter, Miss Odessa Redmon, teacher at the Heiskell School, are among the surviving relatives. Since the above picture was taken, Thomas Nowlin, Wilburn Lyons and John Moffett have been added to the police force and are now on regular duty.

Knoxville News-Sentinel 2-14-35

Chattanooga, Tenn.
NEWS

FEB 9 1935

Speaks for an Officer

Editor The News:

"Bull" Davis has been an officer in Chattanooga for many years. He has never even shot a man. We citizens of Chattanooga need an officer like "Bull" Davis. "Bull" Davis is the only colored man that I see fit for a job like that, and his past record will show that he has convicted many a law violator. Davis also tells a criminal that it does never pay to to commt a crime. As much as 500 people will give Davis a clean record as being a good officer. Out of all the people that he has had arrested, he has never had to shoot anybody in doing that. We citizens of Chattanooga will appreciate an officer of that type.

LAWRENCE LAWSON.

Chattanooga, February 8.

BRAVO, BRAVO, "PROF." ADCOCK!

If no more good is accomplished anent the appointment of Detective James Adcock, veteran police officer, as instructor of the Knoxville police school, than having his "students" thoroughly adhere to his "14 points of police testimony," the investment on the part of the taxpayers in defraying the expense incurred by the salary of this earnest and popular officer would be amply justified. Especially does this apply to that one outlined by "Professor" Adcock which admonishes the men under his training to TELL ONLY FACTS. Note this excerpt from one of the instructor's lessons to police officers: East Tennessee

> **"No case is important enough to the city or police department to justify any deviation from the true facts. . . . . .**
>
> **And again he emphasizes the proper admonition:**
>
> **". . . . . .You are supposed to be an UNPREJUDICED police officer who is there (on the witness stand) to state the facts and TRUTHS you know of the case."** 3-14-35

Such an attitude on the part of Officer Adcock accounts in a large measure for his popularity, not only with the department, but with the public in general, over a long number of years. This genial officer got much of his experience on beat No. 10, at a time when he patrolled on the same shift with the late Officer John Singleton, for many years an efficien Negro member of the police force. His fair dealings and considerate manner won friendships for him that have continued to this day. Knoxville, Tenn.

Officers of the police department who observe closely this kind of instruction are certain to be the ones to succeed. It is extremely unfortunate to note the arrogant, prejudiced attitude of certain men armed with the authority of a police officer. They seem to think they are the last word in dealing with the public and instead of exhibiting a courteous, considerate attitude as a servant of the people, PAID BY THE TAXPAYERS should, they heap criticism of an unkind nature, not only on themselves, but upon their superior officers.

Knoxville, for the most part, has a very gentlemanly group of police officers. Men who are fearless and just to the extent that they not only treat the public in a courteous and efficient manner, but when they are called upon to testify, they will tell the TRUTH, regardless as to who might be involved. Now that Officer Adcock is outlining instruction such as is above referred to, the general public may rest at ease realizing that we will have police officers who are one hundred per cent FAIR. EFFICIENT and PROGRESSIVE!

Policemen and Firemen—1935.

Texas

DALLAS, TEX.
JOURNAL

NOV 15 1935

Negro Police

THE WAY to find out whether negro police will help to reduce crime among Dallas Negroes is to try it out. There is ground for the objection that a lone negro policeman in Deep Ellum would have a hard time of it. But Chief Jones proposes to send them in pairs. It is the way to handle a difficult beat in any part of town. It is about the only way to give the idea of negro police a fair trial. Other Southern cities find that it will work. We might as well get used to the plan of treating Dallas Negroes as citizens of Dallas. Treat any class of inhabitants as irresponsible, and it is apt to be irresponsible. Show recognition and consideration under the law, and the reaction is usually favorable. Why not let Chief Jones experiment?

DALLAS, TEX.
NEWS

NOV 25 1935

FOR NEGRO POLICEMEN.

To The News:

A few days ago some comment was being made relative to placing Negroes on the police force and in the mail service. I was reared in this city and have seen it grow as if by magic. My people were law-abiding, tax-paying citizens here and I now live on a spot of ground owned by my family for more than sixty years. I feel that I should know something about Dallas—I know I love it.

To my mind Dallas owes it to its colored citizenry to give it recognition as asked. There is no question about Dallas Negroes being thrifty, owning homes, and nice ones, too; having money in the banks and supporting charitable institutions, but the basis upon which the request for recognition rests is that of segregation. In the first place it would look better to have Negroes patroling beats and delivering mail in sections where only Negroes are to be served. These men must come into our homes at times, not always because we have broken the laws, but often because we can give information of real help and value in carrying out the law.

There is a saying among officers of the law that Negroes will not tell on each other. It is not that we want to cover up for each other. It is rather that we are not approached in the right way. The best homes and occupants are entered and treated in the same manner as are dens of vice and crime for no cause at all other than color. Negroes in Dallas know about law and order. They know that no criminal or even suspect need expect any mercy when they fall in to the hands of the law, but they also know if you have no criminal record you should at least be given a chance before a bar of equity and justice. Is it not clear then, that a negro policeman could come nearer getting results along these lines than anyone else?

Something was said about having tried it out on "deep elum." Was there ever a regularly appointed negro officer in Dallas? I must admit I have never heard of one. Then, why pick out deep Elm for a negro policeman? There is no segregation after you cross Central avenue, east. Almost every Nation on earth is represented in that section and it about taxes the constabulary of both county and city to control that mass of boiling, seething humanity, at times. Select the right kind of negro men, put them on their honor as is done with other officers and under the same kind of morale and I guarantee the negro officer will prove an asset to this city in cleaning up vice and clearing up crime. If this is done Uncle Sam will do the rest.

MRS. E. E. KITCHIN.

POLICE CHIEFS IN FIVE SOUTHERN CITIES LAUD NEGRO OFFICERS

DALLAS NEGRO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RECEIVES REPLIES WRITTEN TO TULSA, AUSTIN, GALVESTON, HOUSTON, SAN ANTONIO

White Officers Failed, Says Tulsa Police Chief

DALLAS, Texas, Dec. 26.—Police chiefs in five southern cities, including Tulsa, Oklahoma, have written Maceo Smith, secretary of the Dallas Negro Chamber of Commerce, endorsing the use of Negro officers, and telling of their fine and effective service in San Antonio, Houston, Galveston and Austin.

The letters written were in response to queries made by Mr. Smith, who with the Dallas Negro Chamber of Commerce is attempting to show the wisdom of employing Negro peace officers in the city of Dallas.

According to the letters received by Smith, the Galveston department uses Negro officers in cruising cars, and while the Tulsa letter does not explain this, it has been learned since by Mr. Smith that all of Tulsa's Negro officers are now working in pairs in motor cars, with radio equipment.

San Antonio has three Negro detectives, "whom we consider an asset to the department," writes Chief Kilday. "They have produced results due to the fact that they are in better position to secure information and report on conditions among their own race," continues Chief Kilday.

Police officials in all of the cities highly compliment the efficiency and bravery of the Negro officers.

The complete text of the five letters received by Mr. Smith follow:

O. W. Hoop, Police and Fire Commissioner, Tulsa Okla.—We have seven colored officers who are regular members of the Tulsa Police Department and who police the entire colored district which has a population of about 12,000. This number of officers is in about the proportion to the total number of Tulsa police officers that the colored population bears to the white people.

We tried policing the colored district with white officers and our lack of success compelled us to hire police officers of their own race, since which time we have had but little trouble. Six of the officers work in cars and the seventh is a member of the traffic squad on a motorcycle. All are effective and it would probably be impossible to control the Greenwood (colored) district without using officers of same race and color.

R. D. Thorp, Chief of Police, Austin, Texas—In reply to your letter of recent date relative to the success we have had in law enforcement within the Negro section of this city through the service of Negro policemen received.,

In reply to your inquiry will say that Austin has for many years employed Negro policemen who work only in the Negro section and only among their own color. This was being done long prior to the time I was appointed chief of police and since I have been chief I have continued to employ two Negro policemen and have found it very satisfactory.

Tony Messina, Chief of Police, Galveston, Texas—Your inquiry of the 24th, as regards Negro policemen, bag to advise, we have ten colored policemen on our force, two of these work in a cruising car in plain clothes, they handle calls when made to the colored section of city, and also do detective work; the others are divided among the two evening watches in the Negro section of the city.

We have very good success with our men and have some pretty good work accomplished by them. We also use them whenever there is a public dance or colored shows and the party who is conducting the dance or show has to pay the officer a day's pay for his service regardless of whether the dance or show is two hours or eight hours. We use the three-shift system here. Hope this will be satisfactory.

B. W. Payne, Acting Chief of Police, Houston, Texas—Your recent letters asking for information relative to colored officers employedby this department were misplaced on my desk. This is the reason for delay in answering.

We have four colored detectives and one colored uniformed officer in our employ. We have found that they render effective police service among their race, and are successful in solving crimes committed by Negroes.

Owen W. Kilday, Chief of Police, SanAntonio, Texas—This will acknowledge receipt of your inquiry dated August 24th, relative to advising you regarding our success and experience in operating the Police Department of your city and especially the colored sections through the service of colored policemen, and in reply beg to state our department has at all times employed a certain number of colored policemen.

At this writing we have three regular policemen and two regular detectives assigned to the colored district, and from my our experience I consider them an asset to the department. They have always produced results due to the fact they are in a better position to secure information, and report on conditions among their own race.

I hope the above information will be of some assistance to you, and if I can be of any further service do not hesitate to communicate immediately.